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Putting kids to the 'test'

A FEW WEEKS AGO, the Oh So Feisty One, along with all the public school third-graders in the city, took the dreaded English test, which determines promotion to fourth grade.

The poor kids. That's an awful lot of pressure for 8-year olds. Even OSFO's teacher thinks these high-stakes test are wrong-headed.

"They've never taken tests before. They don't even know how to fill in the bubbles," this very experienced public school teacher told Smartmom. Indeed, she hates to "teach to the test," and feels for her stressed-out young charges.

And so does Smartmom. These third-graders are just unwitting pawns being moved around a board by politicians.

And who, besides Schools Chancellor Joel Klein and Mayor Bloomberg, believes that holding kids back is such a great idea? A study done by the Consortium on Chicago School Research found that initially, third-graders who were held back performed better than failing students who were promoted to fourth grade. But after a year, the students who were held back performed worse.

At PS 321, third-grade parents got so worked up they needed extra Paxil in their morning latte at the Connecticut Muffin across the street.

AND THIS BEING Park Slope, there was even a special session conducted by a local psychologist called, "Big Worries... Little Worries: Helping Your Child Handle Stress," in the PS 321 auditorium. According to one of the organizers, "Parents found it very helpful to understand the different kinds of stress children experience and some of the simple things they can do to help children manage. I certainly helped de-stress parents too!"

After the workshop, some second-grade parents, suffering from anticipatory anxiety, were engaged in excessive bubblewrap popping, a proven method of stress-reduction. Others were seen ordering cups of Sleepy Time tea at ConMuffCo and repeating

See TESTING OUR KIDS on page «None»

LAMBDA DEBATE HAS CANDIDATES CALLING FOR DUBYA'S HEAD

IMPEACH BUSH!



Leave 'em laughing

Sen. Hillary Clinton joins Jamie and Marty Markowitz at the Bleep's inaugural coronation last week at Brooklyn Tech in Fort Greene. Markowitz began his second term in high style, with marching bands, toasts, roasts, and a feast fit for Kings. For a report on the raucous event — which was televised live — see Brooklyn Briefs on page 13.

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Papers

President Bush must be impeached — or, at least, questioned really, really intensely. Or maybe just choked to death. The Lambda Independent Democrats' candidates forum — which focused mainly on issues important to the lesbian and gay community — veered into presidential politics last week when an audience member demanded to know which of the five Congressional candidates favored removing President Bush from office.

In this liberal crowd, candidates competed to see who favored harsher treatment of the president.

"I support impeachment," said Chris Owens, who is hoping to succeed his father, Rep. Major Owens (D-Crown Heights).

"By his own admission, he violated the law [by authorizing the surveillance of Americans]. He has dared us — he has dared us — to define his violations as a high crime and misdemeanor." Owens had initiated the debate earlier in the week by calling for impeachment, citing the "Bush administration's flagrant and arrogant disregard for laws designed to prevent abuses of executive power."

During his turn, Owens's main rival for the seat, Councilman David Yassky (D-Brooklyn Heights), said, "The scope of this president's contempt for basic civil liberties is truly breathtaking." But instead of impeachment, Yassky favored a "Resolution of Inquiry" that would require members of Congress to vote openly on whether to investigate the Bush administration.

"Let's put congressional Republicans in the position of having to vote against investigating the president," Yassky suggested, implying that those lawmakers would then have to go back to their districts and defend their decision to not want to know the truth.

It was unclear where Councilwoman Yvette Clarke (D-Flatbush) stood. She restated the question, then answered, "The issue is impeachment. That's the bottom line to it."

Assemblyman Nick Perry (D-Flatbush) showed up too late to answer the question, but told The Brooklyn Papers impeachment is "a little premature." Congress should "investigate the matter seriously. Democrats need to make sure that they can hold [Bush] down for the count."

State Sen. Carl Andrews (D-Crown Heights) was also too late to answer the question. —with Emanuel Jalonski

Clear loser in Park Slope gay debate

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Papers

And then there were four — or maybe three.

Although five candidates for Brooklyn's lone open congressional seat showed up to debate at Park Slope's Montauk Club Jan. 26, at least one, and possibly two, weren't around when the smoke cleared.

The forum, hosted by the influential gay political club, Lambda Independent Democrats, focused mainly on issues important to the gay and lesbian community on which the candidates for the central Brooklyn seat differ little.

Except Assemblyman Nick Perry (D-Flatbush), that is.

Perry not only alienated the crowd of more than 150 people by showing up an hour late, but then fouled off the evening's softball question, "Do you support full marriage rights for gays and lesbians?" Earlier in the evening, fellow candidates Chris Owens (the retiring congressman's son) and Councilman David Yassky (D-Brooklyn Heights) said they supported full marriage rights, while Councilwoman Yvette Clarke (D-Crown Heights) said she favored it, but was also sensitive to the

Debate Scorecard

Last week, Lambda Independent Democrats held the first of what will be many debates featuring candidates to replace retiring Rep. Major Owens (D-Crown Heights). Here's a cheat sheet in case you missed the event, which was held at Park Slope's Montauk Club.

CANDIDATE	PUNCTUAL?	STYLE	BEST MOMENT	WORST MOMENT
Chris Owens, Current congressman's son	Yes	Preacherlike and well-informed	Was cheered wildly for his early opposition to the Atlantic Yards mega-project	When he tried to explain his convoluted formula for ensuring how 33 percent of Atlantic Yards jobs would go to African-Americans.
David Yassky, City Councilman from Brooklyn Heights	Yes	Urgent and wishy	When he confronted the fact that he's the only white candidate in a majority black district	When he suggested that the best way for Congress to confront President Bush is by issuing procedural resolutions.
Yvette Clarke, City Councilwoman from Crown Heights	No, 10 minutes late	Succinct, but light on substance	When she held her ground on why she supports Atlantic Yards, despite crowd opposition	When she reminded the crowd that "during the '70s, there was a whole bunch of turmoil" in Brooklyn.
Nick Perry, Assemblyman from Flatbush	No, 67 minutes late	Tired	When he said he opposes discrimination	When he had to read his impressions of a trip to Israel from a notecard.
Carl Andrews, State Sen. from Crown Heights	No, 81 minutes late	N/A (tardiness)	When he said he supported same-sex marriage	When he had to read his record on gay and lesbian issues from his own press release.



F-Line Bagels co-owner Fouad Assad shows off the store's clever way around a court ruling.

'F' bagel store sticks it to MTA

AHMED SAMHAN has turned the tables — make that the alphabet — on the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

Samhan is the heroic bagel-maker whose F-Line Bagels on Smith Street was forced to remove the "F" train logo from its front sign after the MTA sued for trademark infringement last year.

Seems the MTA felt straphangers would be confused by all the train insignias and think the transit agency had gotten into the bagel business.

Yes, Samhan's store was filled with the subway system's distinctive iconography. And yes, it sits under the Smith/Ninth Street station.

But any similarities between F-Line

Bagels and the F line end there.

For one thing, Samhan's store is sparkling clean. For another, his employees are friendly. And never once has anyone tried to search my bag when I entered.

F-Line Bagels. As the law is in, Samhan

grudgingly complied, breaking apart his expensive front sign even before it had been fully paid off.

He also covered all examples of the MTA's colorful alphabet on other signs throughout his store and even taped napkins over the offensive part of his "F-Line Bagels" t-shirt.

But now, Samhan is fighting back. Loyal customers have recently noticed

that the transit logos have returned — albeit with the letters perfectly backward.

And legal experts think Samhan may actually get the last laugh over his train-running nemesis.

"The standard in a trademark case is very simple," said Brooklyn Law School professor Marshall Leaffer. The aggrieved party needs to prove that the public would be confused — in this case, that customers would think the MTA was involved with the bagel store.

BUT IF the letters are reversed, such confusion, unlikely to begin with, is virtually impossible.

"The likelihood of confusion has become less potent," said Leaffer, a visiting professor from Indiana. "Any-

one would think it was a parody. A reasonable person would not believe the MTA was sponsoring a bagel shop with such a logo."

As an aside, Leaffer said he'd never been to F-Line Bagels. "You have so many bagels in this town, it's hard to keep up! — but thought the bagels at Nosh on Atlantic Avenue were excellent [the jury is still out, counselor].

Leaffer's bagel credentials are suspect, but his legal opinion was validated by other experts. The MTA, however, did not return my calls.

Samhan's new sign, this time with the letter F reversed — is expected to be installed next week, a victory for anyone who loves bagels, has a sense of humor, and believes that the MTA should run the subway system rather than prosecute bagel store owners.

concerns of her religious constituents.

But Perry seemed more like a Waffle House franchisee than a man seeking votes from the largely gay crowd.

"Let me just say that I care about the community and will fight for the community," he said. "If you have to have a fight, you want Nick Perry in the room."

Moderator Dan Tietz pressed on.

"So, Assemblyman Perry, let's try that same-sex marriage question again," he said.

"The issue is about discrimination," Perry tried again. "No one should be discriminated against."

Tietz pressed Perry further.

"Regarding same-sex marriage, I believe marriage is between a man and a woman," Perry said. As the crowd jeered, Perry tried to explain that he would not allow his personal view to prevent him from fighting for gay marriage, but his chance to score points had been lost.

And to stress put an exclamation mark on Perry's meltdown, Lambda President Gary Parker jumped to his feet and said, "Let me just remind everyone in the room that General Eliot Spitzer's gubernatorial ticket."

That was the best exchange of the evening: the remainder of the questions provoked little sparring among the candidates.

State Sen. Carl Andrews (D-Crown Heights) stayed entirely out of the fray by showing up an hour-and-20 minutes late.

And days later, he was reportedly thinking of bailing on the contest altogether to become the new Senate minority leader now that state Sen. David Paterson (D-Manhattan) has been

plucked to run for Lt. Governor on Attorney General Eliot Spitzer's gubernatorial ticket.

Craig's Insider reported that Spitzer has agreed to line up Minority Leader votes for Andrews, a former employee.

But Andrews told The Brooklyn Papers he "is still a candidate for Congress."

"My campaign manager comes on board next week," Andrews said on Wednesday.

After the Lambda forum, an Owens press release said he was "the most qualified candidate in a crowded field... aggressive and impressive."

See DEBATE on page 4

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Testing our kids...

Continued from page 1
the words, "It's only a test, honey" over and over.
But most kids weren't buying it, having soaked in the seriousness of the test via osmosis from their nervous parents and fussed teachers. Suddenly, the kids had trouble sleeping, were having meltdowns and worse. The kids seemed to understand that, if they don't do well, they'll have to repeat third grade. And no kids want to have to learn the multiplication tables or study the Amazon rain forest again.

Smartmom's friend, Type A, was so strung out by the test she had to take extra yoga classes at Devi on Union Street. Meanwhile, her daughter was scheduled for daily hypnotherapy sessions for stomach aches and juvenile migraines.

OSFO took the whole thing very seriously. On the day before the first English test, she came home from school and announced seriously, "I have to get a good night's sleep and eat a good breakfast."

Smartmom tried not to make OSFO any more nervous than she already was. So (for fun, of course!) she insisted on an educational game of Scrabble and a quick whack at a notoriously tough newspaper crossword puzzle.

After a nutritious dinner of foods rich in Omega 3 fatty acids, carbs, and Ginkgo supplements, it was all going to plan: OSFO was bathed and in her fleece footy pajamas, and by 8 pm, she was under her down comforter.
But then the stress kicked in. Less than five minutes later, she came into the living room and announced, "I'm not tired."

In a hysterical effort to quell her daughter's (and her own) raging nerves, Smartmom read

her the entire A-section of the dictionary, and the first chapter of the Chicago Manual of Style. It worked: OSFO was finally asleep.

SMART mom
By Louise Crawford

Looking at her daughter, so innocent and cute in those footy pajamas with the reindeer design, Smartmom felt her blood boiling as if infused with one of those peppers they sneak into the General Tso's chicken at Red Hot Szechuan. OSFO is simply too young to be taking a damn bubble test that will determine her promotion to fourth grade, she thought.

The next morning, Smartmom made scrambled eggs for OSFO's pre-test feeding. But by the time she was ready to eat, they were a tad cold.

"Heat them up, please," OSFO said cheerfully. "They said we should have a GOOD breakfast!"

All that morning, Smartmom wished she could be a fly on the wall in the classroom where OSFO was taking the test while proctors guarded over the kids like the Red Army.

And these bubbles were only the first of thousands to be filled in. In no time, OSFO will be taking the fourth-grade placement tests for middle school and later, the seventh-grade test for placement in high school (not to mention the special test for entrance to Harvard, or Stanford, Bronx Science, or Brooklyn Tech high schools).

Then she'll have the PSATs, the SATs, the LCATs,

MCATs, and GREs to look forward to. Is there no end to the ways that this culture insists on quantifying the aptitude of its individuals?

And upping the anxiety level of its parents.

Smartmom contemplated the thousands of dollars that will be spent on Shiatsu massage, aromatherapy treatments at D'Mai, not to mention regular deliveries from Red White and Bubly to take the edge off.

Yes, these standardized tests are hateful, but perhaps they are a good preparation for the highly competitive world we live in: a world in which one's worth is measured by a computer in Princeton, New Jersey.

On Day Two of the third-grade English test, Smartmom dispensed with the scrambled eggs and decided to take OSFO for a bagel at the Mojo Cafe. Smartmom patiently explained the reasoning behind a good breakfast. The brain works better when there's food in the stomach; it's hard to think when you're hungry, etc., etc.

But OSFO didn't need the calories to keep her eyes on the prize.

"Don't you think you can think VERY CLEARLY when you're SCARED TO DEATH that you're going to FAIL THE TEST?" OSFO said firmly.

In the end, Smartmom let OSFO have as many rainbow sprinkled Krispy Kreme donuts as she wanted even if it meant getting glared at by the Nutrition Policewomen all the way to PS 321.

No reason to make the kid nuts, is there?

Louise Crawford also runs the Web site "Only the Blog Knows Brooklyn."

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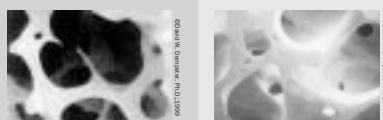
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Scam slammed

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

Police arrested two employees who cheated a Brooklyn Heights pharmacy out of nearly \$2,000 by undercharging for hair clips, chocolate and phone cards, police said.

For more than three days — Jan. 22-25 — the pair ran the scam from a drug store on Court Street, between State Street and Atlantic Avenue. Security cameras and a witness caught them selling a slew of items for a discounted rate and pocketing the cash.

The merchandise they dealt included nearly two-dozen phone cards — which netted them \$1,725 alone — three boxes of chocolate, two packs of hair clips, a \$5 bottle of nail polish and a bottle of Aquafina water.

Tween nudged
Two thugs snatched the wallet of an 11-year-old riding the bus home from school on Jan. 22, police said.

The hoodlums started messing with the youngster on a B63 heading west on Atlantic Avenue, around 3:30 pm, according to police. When the two men rose to exit the bus at Hoyt Street, one made a grab for the boy's pocket. Both thugs tugged at him until they found his wallet, which they snatched and dashed from the bus, police said.

The billfold held \$9, a library card and the boy's school ID. **Brazen heist**
Police arrested a 22-year-old man who allegedly snatched \$115 from the console of a car while the victim sat inside.

POLICE BLOTTER

The suspect wandered up to the 33-year-old victim in his vehicle, parked at the corner of Hoyt and the viaduct streets at around 5 pm on Jan. 3. Despite the man's presence in the driver's seat, the thief grabbed the cash from inside and said, "I'm robbing you — what you gonna do about it, you?"

The victim did do something, because police arrested the suspect a few weeks later.

Tool heist

Thieves stole nearly \$2,000 in tools and equipment from a building site on Water Street closed for the night, police said.

Workers locked up the job, in a building near Bridge Street, around 3 pm on Jan. 24. When they returned early the next morning, they discovered their tools were missing.

Police said the stolen items included power drills and saws, an \$80 sump pump, a box filled with \$275 in smaller tools, and an insulated work suit.

Runaway tech

On Jan. 24, a woman left her portable computer on her desk at 55 Washington St., near Front Street around 2 pm. She stepped out for less than 15 minutes — without locking the office door — and returned to find her six-month-old Macintosh G4 missing, police said.

Impersonators

Badges? These two definitely don't deserve no stinkin' badges.

Two women armed with a fake police shield attacked a third woman in a Downtown discount store after she angered the pair with her slow crossing of Atlantic Avenue during the evening rush hour on Jan. 28, police said.

The two thugs hollered and cursed at the 26-year-old victim from inside their black SUV as the woman and a friend made their way across the busy thoroughfare, near the traffic-clogged intersection with Flatbush Avenue, around 5:30 pm.

One of the angry women leaped from the SUV to show off a white metal badge, shaped like a star, and insisted, "I'm a cop," police said.

The police-impersonators followed their victim into the discount electronics store at the corner of Atlantic and Flatbush avenues, where they confronted her again.

"Are you the one from the street?" one of the attackers asked, and her accomplice punched the supposed sleazebag in her face, leaving her mouth and nose swollen.

Hospital attack

A patient hurled everything from racial insults to a metal bucket at an employee of Brooklyn Hospital during a difficult hour in the emergency room on Jan. 23, according to police.

The 32-year-old worker said the woman was angry from the moment she arrived at the DeKalb Avenue facility, around 3 pm, and the nurses' efforts did not calm her down.

And when the employee told the patient she would have to wait an hour for test results, the woman's frustration moved to violence, police said.

First, she called the employee a "bitch" and peppered her language with racial slurs, before trying to hit the employee, police said. The irate patient then brandished other ammunition — a box of staples, a metal pad — and threw them at the victim before doctors restrained her.

The patient fled and avoided arrest.

Flasher busted

A 32-year-old woman riding the Q train on Jan. 29 was treated to the sight of a man fondling his naked genitals. Police said the man and the woman were riding the Man-

hattan-bound train at around 8:15 am when he pulled out his penis and began stroking it. Police arrested the visibly aroused 28-year-old when the train pulled into Atlantic Avenue. He was hit with public lewdness and lusting.

Seek hair-puller

'Tis the season for tax turmoil, after all.

It is unclear what sparked a Jan. 27 altercation between two women at the New York State Tax Department building on Hanson Place, but police said fighting words turned to fistfights around 11:30 am when the suspect grabbed the hair of her 25-year-old victim.

Mega bust

A warrant search paid off for 88th Precinct officers on Jan. 24, when they discovered more than two pounds of pot in a Vanderbilt Avenue apartment.

Police executing a search at the home, near DeKalb Avenue, made the discovery at around 3:30 pm. They arrested four Brooklyn men — ages 33, 33, 42 and 45 — and recovered the marijuana, a scale and a slew of Ziploc baggies.

Police officer Anthony Barbee of the 88th Precinct made the collar.

No faking

A 28-year-old woman's bid to enter her own Fleet Walk apartment backfired when police busted her for pot possession on Jan. 24.

Police said the woman called 911 around 5:15 pm to report a gas leak at her home, near Myrtle Avenue, when she realized she had locked herself out. The Fire Department responded and checked out one apartment, but called police when they realized the call was a hoax. When officers from the 88th Precinct arrived to take a report, they noticed a bag of marijuana in open view. Police confiscated the pot and charged the resident with drug possession.

High-value haul

Burglars stole computers and luxury watches from a DeKalb Avenue house that was empty for less than five hours on Jan. 20, police said.

The 33-year-old resident said he left his home, near Waverly Avenue, around 4 pm. When he returned at 9 pm, he noticed that someone had climbed up a fire-escape and entered a second-floor window to remove a trio of Apple laptops, two valuable timepieces, \$25 cash and a Stuyvesant High School ID, police said.

Written word

Poetry in motion it was not. But a vandal made his message clear to a 68-year-old Long Island man on Jan. 22 when he scratched the word "Ass—" on the hood of his Chevy Blazer, police said. The victim was walking down Clinton Avenue around 2:20 pm when he saw someone messing with his vehicle, parked near DeKalb Avenue.

The thug then jumped into a light-colored BMW and sped south on Clinton Avenue, police said.

It is unclear why the man believed the victim was worthy of the bodily epithet.

Pre-dawn attack

A New Jersey man leaving a Myrtle Avenue bodega was jumped by a man who may have had a gun on Jan. 26, police said.

Two thugs rushed towards the 33-year-old victim as he emerged from the store around 3:30 am and turned the corner onto Prince Street. One man asked, "What's up?" and took a swing at the man, hitting him with something hard and knocking him onto the sidewalk, police said.

But the two attackers ran off without stealing anything from the man.

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Knifers snatch iPods in Park and on Carroll St

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

The conditions were right, but this park visit was no picnic.

A 21-year-old Park Slope man visited the picnic house in Prospect Park on Jan. 25 to bask in the warm weather and listen to music on his iPod. But the clouds — and a stranger — rolled in around 12:30 p.m.

The stranger asked for the time, but before the man could reply, the visitor pulled out a knife and demanded the iPod. The victim complied and the thief fled.

But he didn't get far. The victim's description of the at-

tacker helped police track down the mugger later that afternoon at the corner of Montgomery Place and Prospect Park West.

Police Officer Leonard Sanders of the 78th Precinct arrested the 24-year-old Brooklyn man on robbery charges.

Teens nabbed

Police arrested a pair of thieves — armed with a knife they never displayed — who allegedly robbed a woman of her iPod on Jan. 26.

The pair approached the 33-year-old woman at the corner of Carroll Street and Eighth Avenue, around 11:30 a.m.

The older teen asked her for the time and then the second

questioned her about the iPod. But the young thieves didn't wait for an answer.

Police said they snatched the digital music device from the woman's hand and ran — but not fast, or far, enough. Police Officer William English of the 78th Precinct cuffed the two boys — ages 18 and 15 — who are now facing grand larceny charges.

Pre-dawn visit

Clearly the thief saw his light — and changed his plans.

Police said he arrived at the Sterling Place home — uninjured — around 4 a.m. on Jan. 29 and started to bust in the door.

The banging noise awoke

POLICE BLOTTER

the 86-year-old homeowner, who came to his senses in time to hear the smash of glass.

The victim leapt from his bed, threw the switch on the outdoor lamp and bright light flooded the doorway of his home, between Fourth and Fifth avenues. This sent the prowler scurrying before the man could see him, police said.

But 10 minutes later, there was a knock on the resident's door, and a man asking if he "had any food." The still-star-

tled man said no, and asked the visitor if he had smashed the glass on the front door. The hungry man said he had not and moved along, police said.

Nothing was taken from the house during either episode.

Candy bust

It was a sweet, but painful, lesson.

A trio of teens learned crime doesn't pay when cops arrested them for stealing candy from a newstand on Ninth Street on Jan. 25, according to police.

The 22-year-old owner of the store, near Fifth Avenue, said the youngsters forced their way up to his shop and snatched the goods around 6:30 p.m. But he notified police, who arrested the boys — ages 16, 16 and 17 — on robbery charges.

Detective Felix Padilla of the 78th Precinct made the collar.

Tools taken

Thieves stole hand and power tools worth more than \$5,000 from two facilities near the Gowanus Canal during break-ins that occurred less than 24 hours apart.

Burglars struck a Fifth Street construction site between 5 p.m. on Jan. 22 and 4

a.m. the following day, snipping the padlocks on three trailers and hauling away \$2,300 in tools.

A few blocks away, on Ninth Street, the burglars broke into a wood-working

shop sometime after 10 p.m. on Jan. 23, police said.

The owner said he returned at 7:15 a.m. the next day to find the lock jammed, the door broken and \$3,000 in tools taken.

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Deal saves Minerva's Liberty view



Green-Wood Cemetery's Minerva will still have her view of Lady Liberty in the new "cutout" design of 614 Seventh Ave.

By Susan Cosier and Ariella Cohen
The Brooklyn Papers

It's a conspiracy of silence for the Goddess of War.

Green-Wood Cemetery, home to a statue of Minerva that has a famously unobstructed view of the Statue of Liberty, has ended its public battle against a neighboring development, agreeing not to testify against the controversial building at an upcoming zoning hearing in exchange for the developers' promise that the 70-foot residence won't obstruct the statues' ability to gaze at one another.

The contract between the developer of 614 Seventh Ave, Chaim Nussenzweig, and Green-Wood Cemetery ended a 10-month feud over the blocked line of sight.

But the cemetery's vow of silence has upset those who saw the prominent Brooklyn burial ground as an ally at an upcoming hearing that will determine if the proposed condo must shrink even more to conform to a recent city downzoning that barred buildings its size.

"Some people feel we have abandoned them," said Richard Moylan, president of Green-Wood Cemetery, "but we had to take the safer route to protect the view. We couldn't take the chance."

Advocates of the downzoning, which forbids buildings from going above 50 feet, argue that the agreement's gag order undermines the work they put into protecting their enclave of one- and two-story wood-frame homes — a fight that until now had Minerva as its most potent icon.

"The agreement sends a bad message," said Aaron Brashear, a resident of 23rd Street, who has fought the development since it was proposed last year. "The developers can say, 'Don't listen to these historians. Don't listen to these community activists because Green-Wood is with us.'"

The Jan. 19 agreement requires that Nussenzweig's architect, Robert Scarnano, erect a full-scale model of the building on the site. The mock-up, according to the architect, will prove his design keeps the view corridor open before any construction begins.

Current plans show a 70-foot roof with a deep notch cut out one spot, like a peephole in the skyline.

If the cut fails to preserve the view, the cemetery is entitled to sue, according to the agreement.

CB7 will host a hearing on Feb. 8. The city Board of Standards and Appeals will then decide the fate of the building.

Park 'pond' fix set

The Brooklyn Papers

Tykes at the Third Street playground will have to get muddy somewhere else once renovations are made to the notorious Prospect Park puddle. But the repair work will not begin until after this summer, when the drainage problems are at their worst.

The Prospect Park Alliance announced that the pond that consumes the playground whenever it rains will be fixed with a \$500,000-grant from former City Councilman Gifford Miller (D-Manhattan).

The project will "make significant changes to how the fountains will work," said Tupper Thomas, president of the Prospect Park Alliance.

Drainage at the playground has been an issue for five years — and the children are to blame (of course!). Apparently, the young contractors had been dumping sand into the sprinklers, causing the area to flood.

Other renovations — including a second sprinkler — are also planned. The year-long construction will start this winter or next spring, Thomas said.

— Susan Cosier

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Cyclones go to school for skip

Name Wake Forest's Greer to replace Mookie Wilson

By Ed Shakespeare
The Brooklyn Papers

In a break from tradition, the Cyclones have gone outside of the Mets organization for a new manager, hiring former Wake Forest coach George Greer.

Until Greer's appointment, Cyclone skipper was either former Mets, or organization men who had been Met farmhands or managed in the Met system.

Greer, 59, was the head baseball coach at Wake Forest from 1988 through 2004.

Greer's experience as a teacher of college-age players would seemingly be a perfect fit for the Class-A short-season New York-Penn League, where most of the players are just out of college.

"Tony Bernard [a special assistant to Mets General Manager Omar Minaya] said he had seen my teams play at Wake Forest and he recommended me," Greer told The Brooklyn Papers.

A native of Westerly, Rhode Island, Greer was an outfielder for the University of Connecticut, where he was a two-time All-American.

In 1967, as the captain of the United States team at the Pan-American Games, Greer delivered the winning hit to take the Gold from Cuba.

Greer played four years in the St. Louis Cardinal system, reaching the AAA level with Tulsa.

He began his coaching career in 1972 when he founded the baseball program at the University of Connecticut. Every Point, and won nine titles



New Cyclones manager George Greer.

in nine years (no "Wait 'til next year" with this guy).

After that, he was the head coach at Davidson University for six years before taking over at Wake Forest, where his Deacon Demons won three Atlantic Coast Conference championships, had an overall record of 604-382-4 and produced 29 All-Americans.

Greer also coached in the summer Cape Cod League for nine seasons, where his players included future major leaguers Ron Darling, Greg Vaughn, Will Clark, Terry Steinbach and Brooklynite John Franco.

"Pitching and defense are the biggest parts of baseball," noted Greer. "Minimizing mental mistakes is very important."

Greer does have an emotional tie to Brooklyn. While growing up in Rhode Island, he disdained listening to games of what he termed "those American League

teams," the Yankees and the Red Sox.

Instead, he listened to National League games, especially to the Brooklyn Dodgers. "My grandfather loved those Dodgers," said Greer.

Greer can't wait to bring his teaching experience to the Cyclones.

"I told Mr. Minaya and Mr. Bernard that I want to help the players any way I can," said Greer. "Especially with the fundamentals."

Cyclones' GM Steve Cohen praised Greer's background.

"We are thrilled to have someone with the experience and pedigree that George Greer brings," he said.

Greer becomes the sixth manager in Cyclone history, following Edgar Alfonzo, Howard Johnson, Tim Teufel, Tony Tjerin, and Mookie Wilson. Johnson, Teufel and Wilson were members of the Mets 1986 World Series-winning team, while Alfonzo and Tjerin were long-time members of the Mets minor league organization.

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OUR OPINION

Vito is Dubya's Rep.

CAN YOU SAY "Baaaaa"? Staten Island Democrats missed a big chance to help their party take back control of Congress this week by nominating Community Board 10 member Steve Harrison to be the sacrificial lamb against incumbent Rep. Vito Fossella (R-Bay Ridge).

No knock on Harrison—he is a committed local activist with strong ties to both parts of a district bound by the Verrazano Bridge—but it is shocking to consider that a party desperate to take advantage of President Bush's flagging poll numbers has nominated a candidate whose only

electoral experience is finishing fourth in a five-person race for City Council in 2003.

It's not as if the party lacks candidates. City Councilmen Mike McMahon (D-Staten Island) and Vincent Gentile (D-Bay Ridge) were both encouraged to run, but bailed out with the same tired excuses ("the family needs me," "I've run too many elections recently") and tired best wishes for the stand-in.

The Democrats' inability to pick a well-known candidate with a proven record of raising money is especially shocking given how big a target Fossella represents. The

four-term congressman is one of President Bush's most-reliable votes in Washington, yet represents a district with nearly twice as many registered Democrats as Republicans.

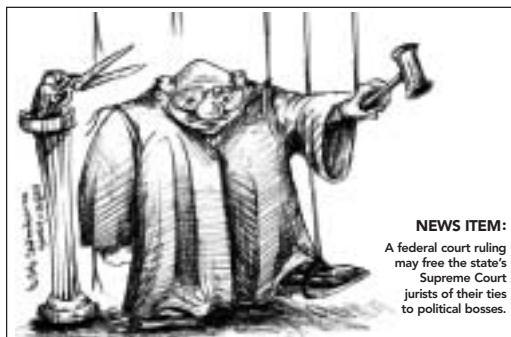
Fossella's support for the president makes him ill-suited to represent a district that has suffered so much under a president who missed vital clues before Sept. 11 and then used the attacks as a pretext for a pre-emptive war that so far has cost 10 Brooklynites their lives.

But even if you support the president's decision to invade Iraq—which many 13th District voters do—there are other ways to be dis-

pointed in Fossella: He has a 0-percent rating from the NARAL, an abortion-rights group, and a 100-percent rating from the anti-abortion National Right to Life Committee. He has a 6-percent rating from the American Civil Liberties Union and an 81-percent rating from the Christian Coalition. His most-recent rating from the League of Conservation Voters was 16 percent. The National Rifle Association gave Fossella an 83-percent rating, while the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence ranked him dead last at 0 percent.

It's too bad Democrats chose to give him a free pass to re-election.

ALL DRAWN OUT



NEWS ITEM:
A federal court ruling may free the state's Supreme Court jurists of their ties to political bosses.

LETTERS

More ferries, not gondolas, should fly over water

To the editor:

The fun and the future of hopping from place to place in our fabulous harbor is not gondolas but boats ("City, state gonzo for Gov. Island gondola," Jan. 21). The Staten Island Ferry and the tourist-supported Liberty Island and Circle Line boats have been constant through the years as harbor traffic got thinner and thinner. Small ferries have been a comeback and they will provide the links between our 21st-century waterfront parks.

Phil Forbes, Red Hook

Save people like me!

To the editor:

I read with interest your recent Smartmon column about Dumbo ("Live there? You would have to be a DUMBO!" Jan. 28). I have lived in Brooklyn since the late 1960s, and although Park Slope has much to recommend it, perhaps it can be useful to consider that it was in many ways a better neighborhood before the influx of money and children, which has made it totally out of reach to someone of my means (I sometimes joke that if I had not bought my house, I would be living in a refrigerator box on the corner). It was by far more diverse, less congested, had a greater variety of service-oriented stores, and less ravaged by real estate frenzy.

Although you mention the lower prices, neighborly co-workers and social consciousness of the Food Coop, you neglect to mention the not-infrequent displays of pique and belief in special privilege that some coop members show, the fascistic nature of the organization in that, although a coop, its policy is dictated by a small oligarchy, and the self-righteous political correctness shown by some in its emphasis on "social consciousness."

I think that some of this would have provided a

fairer contrast with DUMBO. Aren't Park Slope and DUMBO two communities essentially catering to the overprivileged, each with a certain smattering of noblesse oblige?

Saul D. Rau, Park Slope

Save the trees!

To the editor:

By now, thousands of passersby and residents have seen that a row of trees has been sliced away on Henry Street ("Arboricide" Jan. 28). This "arboricide" reconfirms my intention to remain a tree hugger and a critic of ridiculous managerial elements in the Parks Department who ignore feedback from sane workers.

Perhaps now, more than ever, we should remember Joyce Kilmer's poem, "Trees":

"I think that I shall never see/A poem lovely as a tree/A tree whose hungry mouth is prest/Against the earth's sweet flowing breast/A tree that looks at God all day/And lifts her leafy arms to pray/A tree that may in Summer wear/A nest of robins in her hair/Upon whose bosom snow has lain/Who intimately lives with rain/Poems are made by fools like me/But only God can make a tree."

Roberto Gautier, Brooklyn Heights

Save Democracy!

To the editor:

I am writing to express my concern over the nomination of Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court.

As the Supreme Court is one of the pillars of checks and balances in our system of democracy, it seems less than prudent to put on the court someone who, from his record, believes in expansive and unrestrained executive power. This is especially im-

portant in the near future, when a case against President Bush for his illegal spying on Americans may be before the Supreme Court, which is already packed with conservatives.

If there is any doubt as to the importance of who is confirmed, remember that in 2000, it was the Supreme Court that would not allow all the votes to be recounted in Florida, thus giving Bush the presidency.

Jen Ferguson, DUMBO

Save the homeless!

To the editor:

The recent tragic death of two homeless men in Greenpoint should serve as a reminder to all about the challenges facing those who choose to call the streets home.

Many homeless men and women suffer from some form of untreated mental illness; still others may be battling substance abuse. Many homeless people who choose the streets over shelters do so because disabilities prevent good decision-making.

Each day we see the homeless as we walk to our schools and workplaces. Our inclination is to offer them money or food. Instead, we should encourage the homeless to seek assistance through the city's shelter system.

Clients are offered an array of services including crisis counseling, medical evaluation, treatment for mental illness or substance abuse and, ultimately, a permanent place to call home. Giving homeless individuals the services and options they need can prevent them from living their lives in the cold.

Richard Motu, Manhattan

The writer is president and CEO of the Volunteers of America-Greater New York.

Save Mark Lanes!

To the editor:

I been bowling at the Mark Lanes in Bay Ridge for about 10 years, so naturally I was upset and frustrated to hear that Century 21 is planning to tear down the bowling alley for a parking lot. That store is a monopoly that has been trying to take over all of 86th street. I was so angry that I called Century 21, but I got the same reaction that you got: silence.

I think Century 21 is trying to control the shopper so that the only choice in the area is Century 21. As a result, I am calling on people to boycott the store.

Maybe the Mark Lanes wasn't the best bowling alley out there, but in Bay Ridge there aren't many things to do besides bars (even all the movie theaters are closed).

If you feel like I do, sign my online petition at <http://www.petitiononline.com/rush06/petition.html>. Mark Lanes may be a quiet bowling alley, but there are a lot of loyal bowlers there who will be deeply affected by its closure. Bowling is truly the sport of a lifetime.

Tom Brice, Bay Ridge

Permit holders saved!

To the editor:

I am writing to commend the recent efforts of the New York City Parks Department and Community Board 10 to address potential disputes in our community parks this spring. This issue involves a balance between our many outstanding sports leagues and members of the public who wish to use our public parks.

As president of the 68th Precinct Youth Council, which serves over 1,100 children with baseball and soccer programs, I am very familiar with the time

and effort that our local sports leagues go through to secure a city permit for the use of a field on particular dates and times. If respected by all, this process allows an orderly way to balance the needs of an organized youth organization to have space to provide recreational activities for our children with the rights of others in our community to use the space at other times.

The problem is when non-permit holders are using a field when a youth organization holds a permit for that time period. In these instances, the youth organization has a right to that space. However, this may lead to confrontational situations between the permit holders and the non-permit holders.

The immediate decision by the Parks Department to erect signs at park entrances listing the rights of permit holders will allow police, Parks Department employees, and representatives of youth organizations to more easily address, in a non-confrontational way, the situation that arises when non-permit holders are using a field.

This type of signage should go a long way in convincing most non-permit holders of the regulations on this matter and allow for more peaceful resolutions to potential disputes.

Bob Capano, Bay Ridge

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By e-mail: Letters@BrooklynPapers.com

All letters must be signed and include the writer's home address and phone number (only the writer's name and neighborhood are published with the letter). Letters may be edited and will not be returned.



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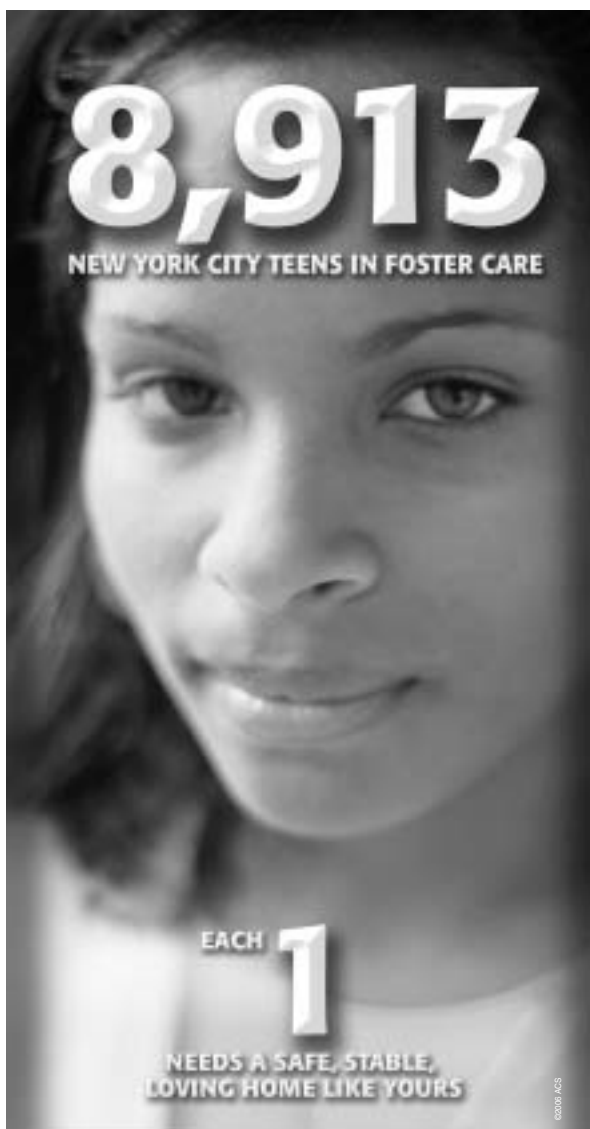


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It's primaries for supreme judgeships

Ruling would eliminate party control of picks

Associated Press

A Brooklyn federal judge has thrown out the state's "undemocratic" system for selecting Supreme Court judges, saying that it gives too much power to political party bosses.

Ruling in a case brought by a watchdog group, U.S. District Judge John Gleeson said New York's unique practice of using political conventions, rather than primaries, to decide the Democratic and Republican nominees for judgeships deprives voters of a role in picking who makes the ballot.

Gleeson issued a preliminary injunction tossing out the existing system, and instructed the state to hold traditional primary elections to pick Supreme Court candidates until the legislature enacts a replacement scheme.

The judge said the watchdog group, the Brennan Center for Justice, had demonstrated convincingly "that local major party leaders — not the voters or the delegates to the judicial nominating conventions — control who becomes a Supreme Court Justice and when."

"The result is an opaque, undemocratic selection procedure that violates the rights of the voters and the rights of candidates who lack the backing of the local party leaders," Gleeson wrote.

Republican and Democratic party leaders had argued in court that the system contained ways for someone to make the ballot, even if he or she lacked party support.

Under current rules, Democratic and Republican party leaders select candidates for Supreme Court justice posts at nominating conventions that critics have derided for years as exercises in patronage and power-broking.

Their selections are rarely opposed in general elections. Political bosses also routinely cut deals to nominate the same candidate on both the Republican and Democratic party lines, further reducing the chance for competition.

People not affiliated with political parties are free to run as independents in the general election, but such candidacies are rarely, if ever, successful.

"Well-qualified candidates who aren't tied to party leaders don't even get a shot," said Brennan Center attorney Jeremy Creelan. The center had sued in 2004, arguing that the system violated the First Amendment.

Critics of the system also said it makes judicial candidates beholden to political parties.

"The court's decision [will] put an end to the back-room deals that should have died with Tammany Hall," city Corporation Counsel Michael A. Cardozo said in a statement.

The ruling only applies to the state Supreme Court, which, in New York, is a trial court that deals with general criminal and civil cases. All other elected judges in the state are nominated in direct primaries, rather than in conventions.

Argument in the case had centered around the selection of judges in Brooklyn, which had been tightly controlled for years by the recently deposed — and recently convicted — head of the Brooklyn Democratic Party, Clarence Norman Jr.

Norman was sentenced to two to six years in prison this month for separate convictions on campaign corruption charges. Those charges are being appealed.

In the wake of the judge's ruling on judicial elections, Councilman David Yassky (D-Brooklyn Heights) put forward a bill that would allow judicial candidates to enter the city's much-lauded campaign finance system and receive matching funds.

Getting it right...

Our headline last week, "Ratner paid for state's lawyers," while accurate, may have been misleading. All developers are required by law to pay for the outside environmental assessment of their projects. It would be wrong also to imply that Forest City Ratner was doing something other developers don't do.

The Brooklyn Papers strives for accuracy, but sometimes mistakes are made. In such cases, readers are urged to contact Editor Gersh Kuntzman at (718) 834-9250, ext. 119, by fax at (718) 834-9278, or email to kuntzman@BrooklynPapers.com.

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

February 4, 2006

Wish you were here

Brooklynites report back from the Sundance Film Festival front

By Marian Masone
for The Brooklyn Papers

Just two weeks before the Sundance Film Festival opened, founder Robert Redford was in Fort Greene announcing a new arts initiative with the Brooklyn Academy of Music. On that day, Jan. 5, he mentioned the large number of Brooklyn filmmakers that are represented at Sundance each year. And it is true; it has become impossible to keep track of all of them.

So this year, instead of an attempt to round up all the filmmakers from the borough who made the trip to Park City, Utah, here's the news from a representative cross section of directors, editors and actors.

Prospect Heights resident Joseph Matthew came to Sundance with his second documentary, "Crossing Arizona," which looks at all sides of the illegal immigration issue, and landed a spot in the independent documentary competition. Along the United States-Mexico border, the film introduces us to men and women who risk all to get into this country illegally.

From lack of water, many die while making the trek, so humanitarian volunteers roam through the area, giving water and food to the illegals who are usually hiding on the side of the road to Tucson.

But others are looking for these illegals as well. Vigilantes opposed to any aid for illegal immigrants are also wandering the border. Their plan is to send them back to Mexico. And of course, the U.S. Border Patrol is doing the same thing.

The idea of examining immigration came naturally to Matthew, who came to the U.S. from India. GO Brooklyn caught up with him in the Filmmakers Lodge on Main Street, where he spoke about his career change from finance to film.

"I always wanted to tell human stories," said Matthew. "I came to the U.S. to get my MBA, but being here was a great opportunity to change direction." So he studied photography and journalism instead. It was here that Matthew paid his dues and developed an artistic eye.

It must be said that it is not enough to document these ideas with a video camera. In order to have a film that will have an impact, it has to be put together in a creative, moving way, so that it will involve the viewer. To this end, Matthew worked with three editors because "when you're shooting, you become emotionally attached and you can lack objectivity," he explained. Editors help to coalesce all the information into a work that moves as well as educates.

"If people aren't moved, then the film isn't effective," said Matthew. He found the film's wide variety of subjects through some



Wrestling with fame: Red Hook native Shareeka Epps (pictured above with Ryan Gosling in the film, "Half Nelson") was happy to report meeting indie phenom actor Terence Howard at this year's Sundance Film Festival. (Inset) Nick Nolte (right) stars in "Off the Black," directed by Williamsburg's James Ponsoldt.



story's going and get a sense of what the bigger story will be."

Nick of time

James Ponsoldt has lived in Williamsburg for about a year, but he grew up in Athens, Georgia, and that's where the idea for his film, "Off the Black," came from. The title is a baseball reference (to the border of home plate), which makes sense since Nick Nolte plays Ray, a divorced father who, instead of being a professional baseball player, has wound up an umpire for high school ball.

"You hang out with people you meet, and then you meet others," said Matthew. "You see the news and track those people down, and you go from there." And then he shot close to 200 hours of footage.

"In making a documentary, research and shooting are part of the same process," said Matthew. "You shoot and see where the

Nolte with the script.

"And I had a really good casting agent to get everyone else on board." "Everyone else" includes Timothy Hutton ("Kinsey") and Sally Kirkland ("Anna").

So how does a young filmmaker, making his first feature, deal with such veterans on the set? "It was a pretty glibless set," recalled Ponsoldt. "Once Nick was committed to doing it, he wanted to meet me — to make sure I'm not a jerk, I guess — and he took great pleasure in the part. He works like a child in that he finds the honesty in the role."

Ponsoldt based the male characters on men in his own life, such as his father and grandfather.

"They were taught not to express emotion, so they talk in roundabout ways," he said. "It was impossible for them to be emotionally honest."

Although Ponsoldt wrote the script in Georgia, it was shot in upstate New York. "I really needed agrarian, post-industrial, former factory towns," he said, and he found them in New York state, in towns like Suffern and Haverstraw.

"Off the Black" screened in the Spectrum section of the Sundance Film Festival, which seems to cover most films not in the competitive sections. The premiere screening was in the 1,000-seat Eccles Theater.

"It was fantastic," said Ponsoldt. "The place was so packed, my friends couldn't get in!" And much of his cast and crew were there to participate in the question and answer session after the screening.

While the public screenings are a rush, let's not forget that Sundance is very much about the business of film.

"[Columbia University professor and 'Brokeback Mountain' producer] James Schamus says that there are two parts to a film, making it and selling it, and that the two shouldn't be confused," said Ponsoldt.

Clearly he hasn't confused them, as his

See SUNDANCE on page 11

EVENT



Boogie fever

Whether you grew up with four wheels permanently attached to your feet or your only connection to roller-skating is an abiding lust for Heather Graham's character in "Boogie Nights," the Prospect Park Alliance Junior Committee wants you at their third annual roller-disco party on the ice at Wollman Rink on Feb. 10.

The '70s and early '80s tunes coming from the DJ's turntables will be an irresistible call to get down, get down, get down or, conversely, get up and boogie.

And when it's time to warm up those toes, disco dancers can "do the Hustle" to the heated lounge for spiked hot chocolate, treats and karaoke.

"Roller Disco on Ice" takes place from 9:30 pm to midnight on Feb. 10. Tickets are \$40-\$100 and include admission, skate rental, snacks and drinks. For reservations, call (718) 965-8988 or e-mail jbetts@prospectpark.org. Tickets may also be purchased at www.prospectpark.org and at the door. Free parking available. —Lisa J. Curtis

THEATER

Sneak peek

The final performance of Irondale Ensemble Project's presentation of "Wasted: The History Mystery of Public Education in the United States and How It Got That Way" will be staged on Saturday.

"Wasted" is one of a series of events at the site of Irondale's future home, the Irondale Center for Theater, Education and Outreach in the Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, at 85 S. Oxford St., prior to its planned official opening in late fall 2006, according to Irondale Ensemble's Marketing and Development Director Nina Callaway. This performance is an opportunity to get a sneak peek at the construction of the 23-year-old theater company's 7,300-square-foot, open transformational space in the building once claimed — and then dropped like a hot potato — by choreographer Twyla Tharp.

Directed by Jim Nielsen, "Wasted" is a sweeping epic theatre noir that traces the mystery of how Johnny got so "wasted," from the founding fathers to Horace Mann to a large yellow bird.

The Irondale Ensemble Project's "Wasted: The History Mystery of Public Education in the United States and How It Got That Way" will be performed on Feb. 4 at 8 pm. Tickets are \$10, \$5 for students, seniors and public school teachers. For tickets and more information, call (718) 488-9233 or visit the Web site at www.irondale.org. —LJC

DINING

Glassy combo

Just in time for Valentine's Day, chocolate lovers (and the people who love them) can meet CaryMo Chocolates and Confections owner CaryMo (pictured), who will offer samples of her hand-crafted wares at The Greene Grape in Fort Greene on Thursday.

Becraft, a River Cafe veteran, will bring bon-bons with Framboise and Riesling fillings, rolled truffles, and chocolate bars to the wine store. (CaryMo Chocolates range in price from \$5-\$40 for boxes that contain two to 24 pieces.)

The Greene Grape will uncork some tawny, ruby and vintage port wines from Infatigato (\$18 - \$40) — because ports pair wonderfully with chocolates, of course.

The "Port and Chocolate Tasting" will take place from 6-8 pm on Feb. 8 at The Greene Grape (765 Fulton St. between South Oxford and South Portland streets). The event is free. For information, call (718) 797-WINE or visit www.greengrape.com. —LJC



Avail editor: Park Slope film editor Shannon Kennedy watched more than 400 hours of film when whittling down the final cut of the documentary, "The Trials of Darryl Hunt."

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BROOKLYN

Neighborhood Dining Guide

This week: PARK SLOPE

Anthony's

426A Seventh Ave. between 14th and 15th streets, (718) 369-5315 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa)
Entrees: \$9-\$16. *

Sal and Frank Buglione named this friendly, family-owned pizzeria in honor of their father, and the simple fare is crafted with quality ingredients in the Old World tradition. "Pizzaiolo" Bart Agostino learned the pie trade at Trionfo in Naples, and his father built Anthony's gas-fired brick oven. Agostino turns out 10-inch individual Neapolitan pies, strewn with basil and Frank's freshly made mozzarella, that GO Brooklyn's Tina Barry calls "cheesah" and "delicious" down to the bubbly, brittle collar of crust. "Other recommended dishes include chicken with eggplant, topped with caramelized onions; their baked calzones; and their light eggplant Parmesan. On Sundays, customers line up to taste Lina Buglione's ragu, a combination of stuffed beef, pork ribs, and meatballs simmered in tomato sauce and served over risotto, amidst the warm, unpretentious family atmosphere. Desserts to try are the crisp cannoli with a pistachio ricotta filling, and a rich, but not heavy, tiramisu. Anthony's now also serves a selection of international wines that Sal says are "cheap but good." Lunch and dinner served daily, Sunday brunch from 11 am to 3 pm.

Applewood

501 17th St. at Seventh Avenue, (718) 768-2044
(Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$15-\$25. *

Owners David and Laura Shea have created a comfortable, country-style ambiance at Applewood. David, named one of "The Cooks with Heart" in *Forbes* Magazine in 2002, offers a wide selection of organic meat and wild fish dishes such as the grilled trout with steak version with caramelized ramps, crisp confit, rainbow chard and venison sausage. For appetizers GO Brooklyn critic Tina Barry recommends the braised pork belly, which she describes as "a generous square of succulent meat with all of its fat rendered, leaving it moist within." For dessert, pastry chef Michael Hyman offers apple tart with ginger ice cream or a banana bread pudding with vanilla rum ice cream and chocolate sauce. An four-course tasting menu is available Tuesday through Thursday (5:00). Open for dinner, Tuesday through Saturday and for brunch only on Sunday, from 10 am to 3 pm. Closed Monday.

Bogota Latin Bistro

141 First Avenue at St. John's Place, (718) 239-3805
www.bogotabistro.com (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa)
Entrees: \$12-\$19. *

Spacious, sunlit Bogota Latin Bistro was conceived as "a tribute to South and Central America" by its owners, Fandé and George Constantine, and the menu features dishes inspired by a culinary journey the two made through Latin America. The Colombian national dish, "bandeja paisa" or "mountain platter" combines grilled steak, "chicharrón" (fried pork skin), "arepas" (white cornmeal cakes), fried eggs and "mofongo" (sweet plantain) garnished with avocado, and it's a favorite with diners. In addition to meat and beans, the menu has a choice of sides including fried yuca, clove mashed potatoes, garlicky spinach and "tropical coleslaw" (a mango-free medley of red cabbage, mango, pineapple and coconut). For vegetarians, GO Brooklyn's Alja Gonsalez recommends the "torta portobella," a portobello mushroom sandwich with fresh Mexican cheese and chipotle mayo. "And the menu is offered by the glass or the pitcher," is the coconut nigro, a mix of coconut rum with coconut cream, mint and lime juice. Enclosed garden seating available in winter. Open for dinner Wednesday through Monday, the \$11.95 prix fixe Sunday brunch features a choice of entrees including a variety of traditional egg dishes, plus one drink. Closed Tuesday.

Brooklyn Fish Camp

162 Fifth Ave. between DeGraw and Douglass streets, (718) 783-3264 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$18-\$25. *

A spin-off of the popular Mary's Fish Camp in the West Village, Mary Redding's blue-iced cake features the lobster roll (a light lobster salad with celery, lemon juice and mayo served on a grilled Peppercorn Farm bun) that she made famous. Also popular are their lobster sandwiches. That's the meat between the claw and the body, according to owner Derek Dos Anjos, who described it as "the most succulent part of the lobster," served with hot clarified butter. A raw bar, fried clams, oysters, Canadian steameders and soft-shell crabs add to the sensation of being at a seaside clambar. There is always a range of catch-of-the-day options, such as whole tilapia, served grilled or fried. Desserts include strawberry shortcake, steamed lemon pudding, and a

* = Full review available at

Brooklyn
papers.com

Abbreviation Key: AmEx= American Express; DC= Diner's Club; Discover Card; MC= MasterCard; Visa= Visa Card

The interior of Cafe Steinhof.

hot fudge sundae made with Il Laboratorio del Gelato ice cream. Beer and wine are available. Open for lunch and dinner Monday through Saturday. Closed Sundays.

Futura Bistro Modern

287 Ninth St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues, (718) 632-0085 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$10-\$21. *
Futura Bistro Modern's decor is cozy yet modern, with red tulip-shaped stools lining a moodily lit bar. Chef Lisa Lu Bar serves up a Latin American-influenced menu with a Mediterranean twist, featuring appetizers like daily spanakopita, fried calamari, and cured sausages with a herb oil. "Carbo" (olive oil with "100 herbs"). Entrees include rigatoni with lamb ragu; whole striped bass served with escarole, peanuts and black olives; and "parrillada Argentina," short ribs, skirt steak, sweetbreads, pork sausage and blood sausage served with the spicy herb sauce, "chimichurri." Open for lunch and dinner daily, weekdays, \$8 prix fixe lunch is two courses, and the \$8 weekend brunch, served from noon to 4 pm, includes an entrée from the full lunch menu plus egg dishes and "panino italiano" sandwiches as well as coffee and juice.

Cafe Steinhof

422 Seventh Ave. at 14th Street, (718) 369-7776 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$8-\$13. *

Cafe Steinhof, named after a famous park in Vienna, is a tree-lined, mostly residential street. Inside, the room has the ambience of an exclusive, cozy inn. The walls are painted deep red, wooden tables are covered with linens and illuminated by candles, and diners sip wine at the long mahogany bar, while a big fireplace sends waves of heat through the space.

Jack's

419 Fifth Ave. at 12th Street, (718) 955-8675 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$8-\$14. *

Since December 2002, chef Hector Gonzalez has been serving comfort food with a setting that makes diners feel at home. The menu includes American, Mexican and Italian cuisine. Crab cakes, topped with rice pilaf served with sautéed spinach, shrimp linguini in tomato sauce with mushrooms, yellow peppers and rum—and decadent desserts like the three chocolate caramel mousse cake. Owned by Hector's brother Mauro Gonzalez, Jack's also offers daily specials and live music every second Sunday and every third Friday. A \$13 prix fixe lunch is served on weekends, from 10 am to 4 pm, choose from a range of entrees and sides, plus minis, fresh OJ or coffee. Open Tuesday through Sunday for lunch and daily for dinner.

Kinara Indian Restaurant

473 Fifth Ave. between 10th and 11th streets (718) 499-3777 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$7.95-\$14.95.

Kinara has a quiet, relaxed ambience. The tandoor oven is the chief attraction: a gas oven with a stone base that is the secret behind pulpy "naan" breads and succulent tandoori meat dishes. The chicken "tikka masala" in yogurt marinade is "moist, crisp-edged and tangy," while the samosas, a spiced mixture of potatoes and peas wrapped in pastry, are "fluffy...light and greasy-les," according to GO Brooklyn's Tina Barry. Classic sauces, cucumber yogurt "raita," mango chutney, tamarind chutney and hot chutney, give the samosas variety. A take-out special offers any entree with samosa, bread, rice and four kinds of sauce for \$11.95. Delivery is available to neighboring communities, and for orders over \$50, throughout the borough. Kinara Indian Restaurant serves lunch and dinner daily.

Editor's note: These are a sampling of restaurants in the neighborhood. The list rotates, and it is not comprehensive. For more restaurants, go to www.brooklynpapers.com on the Web. If your restaurant is not listed and you would like it to be, please contact GO Brooklyn Editor Lisa Curtis via email at Curtis@brooklynpapers.com.

The Royal's treatment

At new Carroll Gardens restaurant, diners are warmed by great staff, fireplace and innovative American cuisine

By Tina Barry
for The Brooklyn Papers

Most restaurants begin with a concept. Perhaps a chef or restaurateur envisions a rustic Italian place that specializes in grilled food or they want to open an eatery specializing in global, small plate dining.

They look for the perfect location and an architect who understands their vision. After that, the hunt for flare, dishes, linens and art begins.

When it comes to waitstaff, any proprietor will tell you that good people can make or break a restaurant, but sourcing them often comes last.

For Steve Henderson, the owner of Royal's Downtown in Carroll Gardens, the waitstaff came long before the restaurant. Henderson was the president of an agency that supplied the help for parties and events. That business segued into a catering and event planning company that handled affairs for MGM, Cirque du Soleil and Chanel, among others.

So when Henderson decided to make his long-held dream a reality by opening an elegant, yet informal, neighborhood eatery in a locale similar to Bay Ridge (where he grew up), he knew exactly which waiters he'd hire. The waiters all were good-looking, as you'd expect, thoroughly professional—work the floor in the restaurant, which opened in October in the former Nino's dining room. (The pizza area of Nino's is still in operation.)

Royal's sits between brownstones on a tree-lined, mostly residential street. Inside, the room has the ambience of an exclusive, cozy inn. The walls are painted deep red, wooden tables are covered with linens and illuminated by candles, and diners sip wine at the long mahogany bar, while a big fireplace sends waves of heat through the space.

DINING

Royal's Downtown (215 Union St. between Clinton and Henry streets in Carroll Gardens) accepts American Express, MasterCard and Visa. Entrees: \$18-\$32. The restaurant serves dinner Monday through Saturday. Closed Sundays. For reservations, call (718) 923-8666.

Henderson chose Alex McWilliams, formerly of Zoe, La Reserve and Craft in Manhattan, to serve as the restaurant's executive chef, as well as handling the fate for Henderson's catering company Seventen. (Both operations share the



Say cheese cake: At Royal's Downtown, the cheese cake is surrounded by a pomegranate and lavender syrup and sprinkled with the fruit's seeds. (Inset) Owner Stephen Henderson welcomes diners to his new Union Street restaurant.

restaurant's kitchen.)

McWilliams' menu at Royal's Downtown ("downtown" is Henderson's word for a collection of neighborhoods including Carroll Gardens, Brooklyn Heights, Cobble Hill, Boerum Hill and parts of Park Slope) is market driven, innovative

American with dishes influenced by Spain and Italy. If you visit on the weekend, you'll be treated to a basket of "pandebono." This South American bread is made

with "casablanca," a mild white cheese. The rolls are warm and flaky with a touch of sweetness. McWilliams serves them with "chimichurri," a pungent Argentine herb sauce made with parsley and lots of garlic.

With the rolls are slices of bread from



Mazzola Bakery, known for its hearty loaves. I'd happily consume slices of the crisp-crust, raisin-studded sourdough everyday.

The "pandebono" are great dipped into a tart, brightly flavored tomato soup enhanced with "pastini" (fine bits of pasta). It's accompanied by a tiny grilled goat cheese sandwich on Mazzola's olive bread that pairs beautifully with the soup.

Even better than the soup, was the "tuna crudo," a long, rectangular plate lined with translucent slices of the raw fish. McWilliams coats the rosy pieces with a smear of grapefruit vinaigrette

and tops it with a fine dice of chives, red onion and a sprinkling of "tobiko" (flying fish roe) that brightens every mouthful.

McWilliams makes a superb, creamy yet tender, risotto flavored with earthy white truffles and Parmesan. The serving is on the small side, a wise decision, as the appetite is rich.

Rich, too, is the braised Berkshire pork, and worth every calorie-laden bite. The meat is cooked down until it's soft enough to eat with a spoon. Beside the pork is a square of moist, golden raisin bread pudding. Once the side absorbs some of the stone ground mustard sauce that enhances the meat, it develops a sweet and sour note that is just ideal.

The cabbage leaf stuffed with onion confit is a superlative touch. I get the whole countryside, "I'm eating at my Polish grandmother's table" (or Russian or Irish grandmother for that matter), but the dish is better without it.

The only flaw to an otherwise perfectly cooked sea bass was a lip-puckering Meyer lemon-rosemary vinaigrette. The sauce's tartness gave a sour note to impeccably fresh, nicely charred piece of fish and its partners: roasted, halved fingerling potatoes and pleasantly bitter, earthy Swiss chard.

Any imperfections in the meal were quickly forgotten after sipping the "Royal cheese cake." It's a little round of moist cake that sits atop a decadently buttery, crisp crust. A bit of pomegranate syrup delicately scented with lavender is drizzled over the pastry. A few ruby-colored pomegranate seeds are scattered about the plate; they make a satisfying "pop" in the mouth.

I love bread pudding, and the one served here, studded with dried apple pieces and currents is perfectly moist, but too much white chocolate made it overly sweet, as did a swirl of cream anglaise. The rest of the dessert roundup covers familiar territory: a warm chocolate soufflé with a coconut truffle center, a selection of gelatos and sorbets, and creme brûlée. When we left, the room had the feeling of a great party winding down. A couple took seats near the fireplace and sat with their heads together, laughing softly. Busboys cleared away plates and empty glasses.

Henderson glanced around the space and smiled. He looked like a happy man.

Mothers of invention

It takes a mother—or, in the case of Tazza, a bakery and wine bar that opened in Brooklyn Heights in October, two mothers—to know what a mother needs. Jodi Gorchian and Nancy Viglione, who reside in the neighborhood, looked for a place where they could sit comfortably with their toddlers and eat a good sandwich, enjoy a decent cup of coffee or even sip a glass of wine.

Nothing fit the bill. So Tazza, which means "cup" in Italian, was born.

The two gutted the former Cafe Del Mar space on Henry Street, turning it into the "warm, modern yet rustic, bright and airy" space, says Gorchian, that the immediate surroundings lacked. Gorchian and Viglione painted the room soft tones of cream, pale yellow and blue and laid the floor with ivy tiles.

Now, neighbors sit along the long copper bar, sipping wine from the inter-

national wine list. (Ten wines are available by the glass.) Parents and their kids fill the copper tables, sharing house-made pasta or baked goods—such as the muffins at left—from popular purveyors like Park Slope's Two Little Red Hens and Manhattan's Little Pie Company. Balducci Bakery and Sullivan Street Bakery.

In the spring, the duo plans to open the eatery's wall-to-wall French doors and set up tables on the sidewalk. "People say the place is very European," says Gorchian. "Mothers seem to like it."

Tazza Bakery and Enoteca (311 Henry St. at Atlantic Avenue in Brooklyn Heights) accepts MasterCard and Visa. Parking: \$3.95-\$7.95; baked goods: 45¢-54¢. The bakery is open 7 am to 10 pm daily. For more information, call (718) 243-0487.

—Tina Barry

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BROOKLYN NIGHTLIFE

Compiled by Chiara F. Couran

The Backroom

(Inside Freddy's Bar) 485 Duane St. at Sixth Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 422-7035.

www.freddysbackroom.com.

Feb. 4: Radio Ghost House, 9:30 pm. John Peano, 10:30 pm. FREE. Feb. 5: Pub Quiz, 9 pm. FREE. Feb. 6: Comedy Night, 9:30 pm. FREE. Feb. 7: Minimalist Brooklyn Chick Jazz with Christina Draglino and Stephanie Greig, 9:30 pm. FREE. Feb. 10: Plastic Beef Variety Show hosted by Pat O'Shea with Spontaneous Combustion, 8:30 pm. Wheelz, 5:30 pm. Kitchens, 10:30 pm. Caliente, 11:10 pm. Secrets, 11:50 pm. Plastic Beef, 12:30 am. Acoustic Open House, 9 pm. FREE. Feb. 11: U.S. Free, 9:30 pm. Sons of Dawa, 10:30 pm. Mickey Western and the Magnates, 4:15 pm. FREE.

BAMcafe

30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 458-4100.

www.bam.org.

Feb. 4: Will Holbrook Trio, 9 pm. \$10 food/drink minimum. Feb. 10: 24.7 Soys, Phil Moore Brown, 9 pm. \$10 food/drink minimum. Feb. 11: Beat Circus, 9 pm. \$10 food/drink minimum.

Bar 4

454 Seventh Ave. at 15th Street in Park Slope, (718) 832-9800.

Feb. 4: Sanapilla and guests, 8 pm. FREE. Feb. 5: James Carney Group, 8 pm. \$5.

Barbes

376 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 955-9777.

www.barbesbrooklyn.com.

Mondays: The Velours, 9:30 pm. FREE. Tuesdays: Slavic Soul Party, 9 pm. \$5. Wednesdays: Night of the Revived Limbs, 9 pm. \$5. Feb. 4: Yale Strom and Hot Patrons, 8 pm. \$8. Las Rubias del Norte, 10 pm. \$10. Feb. 5: James Hunter, 8 pm. \$8 suggested donation. Deba Drenhaus, \$8 suggested donation. Feb. 6: Catherine Russell, 7 pm. \$8 suggested donation. Feb. 7: Jan Riggs, 7 pm. \$8 suggested donation. Feb. 8: Mark Helius Open House, 8 pm. \$10 per set. Feb. 9: Matt Pavolia Quartet, 8 pm. \$8 suggested donation. Feb. 10: Wendy, 10 pm. \$8. Feb. 10: Tony Malina's Palma Roca, 8 pm. 10 pm. \$10 per set. Feb. 11: Chela Libre, 8 pm. \$8 suggested donation. Las Rubias del Norte, 10 pm. \$10.

Bombo

55 Sixth St. at Berry Street in Williamsburg, (718) 387-5389.

www.bomboat.com.

Saturdays: Rhum, live DJs alongside live Latin percussion flavors, 9 pm. FREE. Sundays: No Selection with live DJs, 9 pm. FREE. Mondays: Unturpied, 9 pm. FREE. Tuesdays: Natural Selections with DJ Jon Bliss and guests, 9 pm. FREE. Wednesdays: Conscience with DJ Stefan Anderson, 9 pm. FREE. Thursdays: Togue with DJ Cezar, 9 pm. FREE. Buzuelo and live rumba with Romain Dax, 9 pm. FREE. Fridays: Rumba Ensemble, 9 pm. FREE. Fridays: World Beat Flavors, 9 pm. FREE.

Black Betty

365 Metropolitan Ave. at Havemeyer Street in Williamsburg, (718) 399-0363.

www.blackbetty.net.

Saturdays: DJ Lij' Shalimar, 11 pm. FREE. Sundays: Brazilian Beats, 10 pm. FREE. Mondays: Live Jazz, 10 pm. FREE. Tuesdays: Sean Marquand and Greg Caz, 10 pm. FREE. Wednesdays: Rex, Vince Anderson and his Live Choir, 10 pm. FREE. Thursdays: Hot Rocks, 10 pm. FREE. Fridays: The Greenhouse with DJ MonkOne, 10 pm. FREE.

The Brooklyn Lyeum

227 Fourth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 398-7327.

www.brooklynlyeum.com.

Feb. 4: Don Sovers Improv Circuit. Live and the Improv Summit, 8:30 pm. FREE. Fridays: The Backroom, 9:30 pm. FREE. Saturdays: Celebrate Brooklyn! Western SoulJam Dance Party featuring DJs Felix Hernandez and Audipolito, 9 pm. \$20. Feb. 11: Chris Berry & Parjane, 9 pm. \$10. Sonoma, 10 pm. FREE.

Cafe Steinhof

422 Seventh Ave. at 14th Street in Park Slope, (718) 369-7776.

www.cafesteinhof.com.

THIS WEEK AT NIGHTLIFE
THE BACK ROOM BEGINS

Friday, February 3
9PM JAZZ

Saturday, February 4
9PM STANDARDS

Sunday, February 5
4PM READING

Monday, February 6
9PM JAZZ

Tuesday, February 7
9PM ARTISTS SALON

Wednesday, February 8
9PM NIGHT ON THE TOWN

Thursday, February 9
9PM SONGWRITERS SHOWCASE

Friday, February 10
9PM JAZZ

Saturday, February 11
9PM CONCERT

Sunday, February 12
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You are Keanu

'Point Break Live!' drafts audience member to play action hero role — with cue cards

By Lisa J. Curtis
GO Brooklyn Editor

Director James Hooks will stage his adaptation of the Keanu Reeves-Patrick Swayze extreme-sports blockbuster "Point Break" at Williamsburg's Gallapagos Art Space, beginning Feb. 10.

But he can't do it without you.

More accurately, he can't do it without a volunteer from the audience, who will read the lines of Johnny Utah from cue cards — to help the recruit truly embody Reeves's performance in the movie.

"It's the most wildly appreciated work of all the things I've done," Hooks, 35, told GO Brooklyn. "It's also the least ambitious, cheapest and stupidest."

"Point Break" tells the story of undercover FBI agent Utah, who attempts to infiltrate a gang of bank-robbing surfers led by Bodhi (Swayze).

According to Hooks, no effort has been spared to recreate the film's final moonson scene, and he'll bring on the "indoor rain and wind" to help the audience suspend its disbelief.

"You come to grips with the intensity of the [film's] action in the theater," said Hooks. "You really think you're in the sky falling towards the earth, and you feel like you're in the ocean. We have survival kits to help [the audience] live the ride a little better — enhancements."

Another — possibly nauseating — innovation in Hooks's version of "Point Break," is casting the role of Keanu's girlfriend, Tyler, as a 10-year-old girl played by Greenpoint resident Izzy Abeyta.

Hooks said he adapted the film for the stage with the help of Jamie Keeling, who



You're the inspiration: Keanu Reeves and Patrick Swayze in the original "Point Break."

deserves the credit for the "you are Keanu" angle. Perhaps it isn't so hard to believe that Hooks, also of Greenpoint, and Keeling "hatched the idea one drunken evening over karaoke." But they did, and now Brooklyn can also enjoy a show that has been so warmly received in Seattle, Minneapolis and Olympia, Washington, where, according to Hooks, "the town mandated" to Hooks, "the town mandated"

the Reeves role be played by "an over-weight lesbian."

He said that even a man who "barely spoke English" gave a "fantastic performance" as Reeves.

"It took a long time, because he had trouble reading the English, but he had the audience eating out of his hand."

The volunteer who plays Agent Utah does not have to go it alone, however. Another character, called Production Assistant, helps the novice with his blocking and holds the all-important cue cards.

Hooks says that the audience doesn't appear to shy away from the limelight, so he doesn't have a problem getting a volunteer. He attributes the show's universal appeal to "everyone wants to be an action-movie star. Even Tony Kushner [the 'Angels in America' playwright] secretly wants to be in an ass-kicking Hollywood film."

"I'm wallowing in the muck of populist theater with this one," Hooks continued. "And I hope it doesn't stain my clothing. Really, one thing Seattle could teach New York is that people there — from the drunk at the bar to the mayor — don't take themselves so goddamn seriously all the time. Certainly, New York theater is guilty of that."

Although cue cards are available for the volunteer, Hooks says the Johnny Utah role does entail being on the receiving end of a lot of abuse.

"People are yelling at him and abusing him and forcing him to commit armed robbery throughout the entire film. ['Point Break Live!'] realistically reproduces this aspect of this movie...He's spat on, teased, and forced to chase people around. Yet people were absolutely going to go to play this role."

In real life, Hooks is a bit of a daredevil himself, taking his theatrical adaptation of "Point Break" on the road without permission from the filmmakers. But he's rather pragmatic about the danger.

"If they sued me, they'd find some walrus, seaweed and an empty bottle of orange juice in the fridge," he said, with just a touch of defiance.

"And the truth is, this is not mocking Keanu," said Hooks. "It's a really respectful take. I believe that 90 percent of why people don't achieve their dreams is self-inflicted. I couldn't be an action-picture star, because I don't look good enough, or I don't have the acting chops." But everyone can act like Keanu. He's shown us that if you believe you can do it, talent is secondary to drive and ambition. Everybody can be Keanu."



Heights Players turn 50

The Heights Players commemorated their 50th anniversary with dinner and dancing at Williamsburg's Giundo on the Water on Saturday.

Among those celebrating the community theater's landmark year were (above) actor John Bourne, the group's oldest member, pictured with Fabio Taliercio, who will direct The Heights Players' production of "Witness for the Prosecution" this month. From March 3 — 19, Bourne will reprise the role of Francis Nurse, from "The Crucible," which he played nearly 50 years ago.

"We were looking for 'The Crucible' because that was the second play that the Heights Players ever did — in May of '57 — and that put us on the map," recalled Bourne. "With-



in three months, the Heights Players was incorporated as a nonprofit educational group. We started our workshop programs and decided we were going to be a residential company in Brooklyn." Also at the event were (at right) members Michael and Christine Janove; and (left) Heights Players President Ed Healy (center) with state Sen. Martin Connor and Assemblywoman Joan Millman.

"Witness for the Prosecution" will be staged at the Heights Players Theater (26 Willow Place at State Street in Brooklyn Heights) Fridays through Sundays, from Feb. 4-19. Tickets are \$13 for adults, \$10 for students, seniors and children. For ticket information and reservations, call (718) 237-2752.

THEATER

"Point Break Live!" will be performed at Gallapagos Art Space (70 N. 5th St. between Kent and Wythe avenues in Williamsburg) on Friday and Saturday nights at 8:30 p.m. from Feb. 10-25. Tickets are \$12, \$10 in advance. For tickets, visit the Web site www.amartix.com and for more information, visit www.gallapagosartspace.com.

the Reeves role be played by "an over-weight lesbian."

He said that even a man who "barely spoke English" gave a "fantastic performance" as Reeves.



BCAT Program Guide — What's on Brooklyn Community Access Television

Television Production with a Brooklyn State of Mind

By Joy Rivers

What's in a name? Viewers of Brooklyn Community Access Television (BCAT), the borough's public access channels, are now finding out. Since January 17, 2006, all programming on the BCAT channels has sported a logo identifying it as either "Brooklyn Free Speech TV" programming or "Brooklyn Independent Television" programming. This is part of a new effort by those who manage BCAT to clarify for viewers whether the programming they are watching originates from the community (Brooklyn Free Speech TV) or from BCAT itself (Brooklyn Independent Television).

BCAT is operated by Brooklyn Information & Culture, Inc. (BRIC), which serves as the borough's community access organization. The new logos have been launched as part of a five-year master plan prepared by BRIC entitled "Public Access TV in Brooklyn — Expanding Its Contribution to the Brooklyn Community." This master plan was intended to respond to the input of numerous Brooklyn constituencies, including the suggestions of a Community Access Strategic Planning panel chaired by Borough President Mary Markowitz when he first took office.

"As Brooklyn's public access organization, we were given a dual mandate: to provide meaningful media access to the community, and to facilitate and develop television created with Brooklyn and its diverse populations in mind," said Leslie Schultz, BRIC's Executive Director. "Our master plan was designed to further both of these vitally important ends."

The new logos help viewers understand whether programming they are watching emanates from the "access" part of the mandate or from the "Brooklyn-centric content" part. By law, BCAT cannot control the content of a program submitted by a community member; programs can be about anything a local resident deems of interest. As a result, the eclectic "Free Speech TV" programs on the BCAT channels run the gamut from talk shows to comedy to home-grown music videos to preaching the beliefs of Brooklyn's many denominations. Programs produced or sponsored by the Brooklyn community now feature the "Brooklyn Free Speech TV" logo.

Greg Sutton, BCAT's Executive Producer, noted that Brooklyn Independent Television already includes a number of programs that were developed in response to increasing viewer demand for Brooklyn-centric television, and that other programs are expected to be launched as part of implementing the master plan. "We currently produce *Reporter Roundtable*, a weekly roundtable show on Brooklyn issues; *BCAT SportsTalk*, a weekly wrap-up of local sports; *Brooklyn Review*, a bi-weekly news magazine; *Brooklyn Election Officials*, a weekly platform for local representatives and their constituents; and the *Neighborhood Beat* series featuring eleven of Brooklyn's diverse neighborhoods. These programs, and others, like *A Date at the Library*, which is co-produced with the Brooklyn Public Library, fall under the moniker of 'Brooklyn Independent TV.' Other programs, focusing on public health issues, business, entertainment, arts and culture, are in the works."

The master plan also contemplates increasing the educational resources available to those providing programming for Brooklyn Free Speech TV. "Our community producers are full of talent and passion but are often learning as they go," said Sutton. "Sound and lights can be problems when you're creating television on a shoe-string budget."

In January, to help on this front, BCAT launched a new educational initiative called Brooklyn Center for Media Education and Access (BCMEA), expanding the number of low-cost courses available to the Brooklyn community from two to eight classes at a median cost of \$30. In addition to the

BCAT clarifies for viewers whether the programming they are watching originates from the community (Brooklyn Free Speech TV) or from BCAT itself (Brooklyn Independent Television) with new logos.



two basic television production workshops, new workshops include interviewing tips, sound, lighting, and advanced editing. Brooklynites can also learn to become better viewers via a new media literacy class and master computer basics with a computer literacy class.

"The launch of BCMEA makes BCAT the borough leader in affordable media education" noted Sutton. "The eight courses that comprise our catalogue of classes provide our students with the knowledge to develop a first-class skill set for an unbelievable price point. You could take all eight of our courses for less than you would pay for a 3-credit course at a public college — and we'll let you use an \$8 million television facility for free to create a program that will be broadcast, for free, into a potential of 429,000 households in Brooklyn."

BCAT operates from a state-of-the-art facility located in the former Strand Theater in downtown Brooklyn. Programs can be seen on each of Brooklyn's two cable franchise systems: Time Warner Cable 34, 35, 56, and 57 and Cablevision 67, 68, 69, and 70, and streamed live on the internet at www.bcat.tv/bcat. Since 1993, BCAT has provided thousands of Brooklyn residents and organizations access to free channel time, low-cost television production training and free equipment usage.

To request a free BCAT Program Guide or a class schedule, email comment@bcat.tv or call 718-935-1122 x250.

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SUNDANCE...

Continued from page 7

producer and sales rep have been talking to a handful of people regarding theatrical distribution. That's why you'll be able to see it in a theater near you.

Return to 'Govanus'

Two years ago, Park Slope filmmakers Ryan Fleck and Anna Boden were at Sundance with their award-winning short, "Govanus, Brooklyn," and the film's talented young star, Shareaa Epps. Now that they've developed that short into the feature film "Half Nelson," they returned to the festival in the dramatic feature competition.

And Shareaa is back, too. Now 16-years-old, the actress plays the same character, Drey, a young student who

tries to figure out her life with some not-so-father-figure role models to deal with, including Ryan Gosling as a well-meaning teacher with inner demons raging. GO Brooklyn hung out with Shareaa at a party at Zoom restaurant on Main Street. Formerly from Red Hook, Shareaa now lives in upstate New York, but she did go home again, as the film was shot in Fort Greene, Red Hook, East New York and other Brooklyn neighborhoods. Here at Sundance, Shareaa was, again, having the time of her life.

The high point had to be when Terrence Howard, the current "man of independent means" ("Crash," "Hustle and Flow," "Lackawanna Blues") walked up to her, shook her hand and said he liked her work.

"I looked at him and said, 'You're Terrence Howard!'" she said. But she was also impressed with the "swag" available to Sundance "talent": she modeled her new jacket

and cap for GO Brooklyn.

Crown Heights actor Anthony Mackie, who plays Frank, the drug-dealing friend of Drey's incarcerated brother, had yet to find the swag, but he was having fun.

"There are lots of parties here," he said, "and more fun because the film was so well received." His wish came true, as New York-based distribution company THINKFilm picked up "Half Nelson" for distribution by the festival's end.

Making the cut
"The Trials of Darryl Hunt" follows the

two-decade long search for justice of a man wrongly convicted of rape and murder in North Carolina. Filmmakers Rick Stern and Annie Sundberg chose Park Slope editor Shannon Kennedy to put the film in its final form. Just as "Crossing Arizona" director Joseph Mathew spoke of the importance of editors in completing his documentary, Kennedy cast her fresh eye on the 400 to 500 hours of footage that was brought to her.

"You have to figure out how to tell the story," she told GO Brooklyn at a party of Main Street. "You find the most compelling stories by reading hours and hours of transcripts." As an editor, Kennedy had a basic idea of what she wanted to do, and she felt that she and the directors got that, and that the film will speak to people.

GO Brooklyn spoke with Kennedy

CINEMA

"Creative Latitude: Sundance Institute at BAM," a series of film screenings, performances, panel discussions and special events that brings the selections from the Sundance Film Festival the Brooklyn Academy of Music, takes place May 11-20, 2006. For more information, visit bam.org.

while the filmmakers were doing a television interview outside the party at Buena Vista restaurant.

"Now I get to just enjoy the festival," said Kennedy. "I'm very much behind the scenes here." Her work was clearly done, and she relaxed.

And so it goes for all the filmmakers plying their trade at Sundance. Actors and editors (at least most of them) don't have to deal with the business end of the pro-

duction. But for directors and producers, the festival is a non-stop ride: present your film to the public and have earnest conversations about your work, and then try to drive a hard bargain to sell your film to a distributor who will give it a life beyond the film festival circuit.

For Fleck and Boden, the job is done, with a distributor in place. For the others, discussions will go on, as will the hope of distribution. You can be sure that with or without distributors, most of these films will be seen by many other Brooklyn artists, will be on screens within the year. Some of them will be screened in Fort Greene, as part of the Sundance and BAM collaboration, "Creative Latitude" as early as May.

Marian Mason is the associate director of programming for the Film Series of Lincoln Center and chief curator of The New York Video Festival also at Lincoln Center.

ore

Compiled by Susan Rothwell

Sat, Feb 4

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

ICE SKATING: at the Williams Bridge Park in Prospect Park. Sessions at 11 p.m. 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. \$5. \$3 children and seniors. \$5 skate rental. Enter the park at the junction of Ocean Avenue and Lincoln Road. (718) 965-9999.

HOUSE TOUR: Discover how Black people lived in 19th century Brooklyn. The historic Hunterly Road House is open to the public in Weeksville. \$4. 11 am to 3 p.m. 1698 Bergen St. (718) 623-6000.

PERFORMANCE

ARTS AT ST. ANN'S: presents "Fountain Theater's 'Major Bang, or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Dry Bomb,'" part suspense thriller, part magic act and part instructional seminar. \$25 to 4 p.m. \$30 at 8 p.m. 38 Water St. (718) 254-8779.

PEOPLE'S HISTORY: "Voices: Water Changing Radical Historical Figures Brought to Life by Brooklyn Youth," facilitated by Amy Brown and Brian Jones. \$15. \$10 students under 21. 7 p.m. Brooklyn Non-Profit Communication, 421 Fifth Ave. (718) 797-9525.

GOWANUS WILDLIFE PRESERVE: Showcase features dance, theater, music and interdisciplinary work by artists of all ages. \$10. 7:30 p.m. 295 Douglas St. (718) 486-3234.

BARGE MUSIC: presents an evening of Schubert's "Winterreise." \$35. \$25 students and children. 8 p.m. 421 Fifth Ave. (718) 624-0083.

CBCC: Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts presents Dance/theater performance "Retraite de Bahia," a full-length work inspired by French photographer and anthropologist Pierre LeGres. \$15 to \$25. 8 p.m. Walt Whitman Theater, Brooklyn College, one block from the intersection of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. (718) 951-4500.

HEIGHTS PLAYERS: "Witness for the Prosecution." \$13. \$10 students, seniors and children. 8 p.m. 26 Willow Place. (718) 237-2752.

FIRST WEEKEND: Brooklyn Exchange hosts its monthly performance and discussion series featuring choreography, short plays and more. \$15. \$10 members. 8 p.m. 421 Fifth Ave. (718) 624-0083.

IMPACT THEATRE: presents Cage Theatre Company's production of "The Tempest" by Shakespeare. \$15. \$12 students. 8 p.m. 190 Underhill Ave. (718) 390-7163.

THEATRE: The Sackett Group presents "The American Boy," a story about a life in America during the Great Depression. \$12. 8 p.m. Brooklyn Music School Playhouse, 126 St. Felix St. (718) 638-7104.

BROOKLYN UCELM: in-house troupe "Improv Central NYC (ICU)" performs. Other performances include "The American Boy." \$10. 9:30 p.m. 227 Fourth Ave. (718) 857-4816.

RESCALABLE ENSEMBLE: Project presents "Witness: The History of Public Education in the United States and How it Got That Way." \$10. \$5 students. Brooklyn Public School Teachers. 8 p.m. www.enr.org. (718) 488-9233. Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, 85 E. Oxford St.

CHILDREN

SWIM LESSONS: NYC Parks and Recreation hosts registration for its winter learn-to-swim program. 9:30 am to noon. Metropolitan Pool, Bedford and Metropolitan avenues. Williamsburg. For info, call 311. Free.

RUN AROUND: Brooklyn Museum opens up its theater stage for a "Kid Runaround." Bring your kids in to burn off their winter energy. 10 am to 2 p.m. Food available. 227 Fourth Ave. (718) 637-4816.

ARTY FACTS: Brooklyn Museum invites kids, ages 4 and older, to look at and have an arts and crafts session. \$6 adults, \$4 seniors and seniors free for children under 12. 11 am and 2 p.m. 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 638-5000.

PUPPETWORKS: presents a marionette performance of "Puss in Boots." \$8. \$7 children. Recommended for ages 4 and older. 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. 388 South Ave. at Fort Street. (718) 965-9999.

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: hosts Rodio Remedies. Kids are invited to learn about cowboy medicine like onions and honey and other natural remedies for kids. Ages 5 and older. \$4. Free for members. 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 735-4000.

SEUSS: Celebration of the life and work of Dr. Seuss. Shows at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. \$5. \$3 children. \$5 adults free. 1 p.m. Lafayette Avenue Church. 95 South Oxford St. (718) 488-9233.

PUPPET SHOW: Talking Heads Theater presents Rudyard Kipling's "How the Elephant Got Its Trunk." \$7. \$5 children. 4 p.m. Appropriate for ages 2 to 7. Montclair Gallery, 234 Fourth Ave. (718) 318-4280.

AUTHOR TALK: Brooklyn Public Library, Central branch presents historian Eric Foner as he reads from and discusses "Forever Free," his examination of the years of Emancipation and Reconstruction following the Civil War. 4 p.m. Also, Noliwe Rodio discusses her book "White Money" Black Park. 6 p.m. Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100. Free.

OTHER

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Sun, Feb 5

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

EARLY BIRD WALK: Learn about the Great Bay Bridge and Central Park. Find woodpeckers, chickadees and other birds in the backyard. Meet at Waldman Park, Prospect Park. (718) 230-2100. Ext. 101. Free.

CHINESE OPERA: Brooklyn Public Library, Central branch, presents a Chinese New Year Festival with the Ban Chinese Music Society. 2 p.m. Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100.

JAZZ: The Jazz Spot celebrates Black history with a special concert on the partitioning of Africa. Music by the African Contemporary and Percussion Ensemble. \$10. 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. 175 Kosciuszko St. (718) 453-7625.

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Mon, Feb 6

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Wed, Feb 8

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RESCALABLE ENSEMBLE: Project presents "Witness: The History of Public Education in the United States and How it Got That Way." \$10. \$5 students. Brooklyn Public School Teachers. 8 p.m. www.enr.org. (718) 488-9233. Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, 85 E. Oxford St.

SWIM LESSONS: NYC Parks and Recreation hosts registration for its winter learn-to-swim program. 9:30 am to noon. Metropolitan Pool, Bedford and Metropolitan avenues. Williamsburg. For info, call 311. Free.

RUN AROUND: Brooklyn Museum opens up its theater stage for a "Kid Runaround." Bring your kids in to burn off their winter energy. 10 am to 2 p.m. Food available. 227 Fourth Ave. (718) 637-4816.

ARTY FACTS: Brooklyn Museum invites kids, ages 4 and older, to look at and have an arts and crafts session. \$6 adults, \$4 seniors and seniors free for children under 12. 11 am and 2 p.m. 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 638-5000.

PUPPETWORKS: presents a marionette performance of "Puss in Boots." \$8. \$7 children. Recommended for ages 4 and older. 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. 388 South Ave. at Fort Street. (718) 965-9999.

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: hosts Rodio Remedies. Kids are invited to learn about cowboy medicine like onions and honey and other natural remedies for kids. Ages 5 and older. \$4. Free for members. 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 735-4000.

SEUSS: Celebration of the life and work of Dr. Seuss. Shows at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. \$5. \$3 children. \$5 adults free. 1 p.m. Lafayette Avenue Church. 95 South Oxford St. (718) 488-9233.

PUPPET SHOW: Talking Heads Theater presents Rudyard Kipling's "How the Elephant Got Its Trunk." \$7. \$5 children. 4 p.m. Appropriate for ages 2 to 7. Montclair Gallery, 234 Fourth Ave. (718) 318-4280.

AUTHOR TALK: Brooklyn Public Library, Central branch presents historian Eric Foner as he reads from and discusses "Forever Free," his examination of the years of Emancipation and Reconstruction following the Civil War. 4 p.m. Also, Noliwe Rodio discusses her

[illegible]

CHECKIN' IN WITH...

Sander Hicks

He serves up bagels, excellent fair-trade coffee and controversial books at his Vox Pop coffeehouse in Ditmas Park, but does that qualify someone to be governor? Maybe not, but he did just win his first elected office — president of the Cortelyou Road Merchants Association. Now, writer, activist and 9-11 critic Sander Hicks is looking for the slightly more lofty office. Running as a Green Party candidate, Hicks will be taking his "crusade for peace and justice" around the state with a Lollapalooza-like road show. Our Gersh Kuntzman caught up with this beanpole-tall lightning-rod.

Q: So what is important to you?

A: Big ideas. Albany should create its own public interest venture capital fund. Why couldn't the state give loans to socially conscious companies — like organic farmers, wind farms, alternative fuels — in exchange for a small equity stake?

Q: Um, because that's socialism.

A: No, it's social capitalism. I'm anti-corporate globalism. Jobs are going overseas and it's a race to the bottom. But look at Vox Pop. We're a union shop that sells fair-trade coffee. We are the future.

Q: The future?

A: Yes, plus, we're the only place where you can get a decent espresso.

Q: Well, you have one qualification for office: You've already tangled with Andrea Peyser of The Post and come out alive.

A: She was upset because Vox Pop published "The Big Wedding: 9-11, the Whistle-blowers and the Cover-up" [the book questions the "official" story of 9-11]. But the larger issue is non-violence. As governor, I will be pro-Satyagrah.

Q: Satya-who-ha? You lost me.

A: It's a Gandhian term. Some people believe that non-violence is weak, but as someone who hit a guy, I know.

Q: You hit a guy?

A: He was a Nazi at a rally. But after that, I went to New Mexico and read Gandhi. People think non-violence is for crusty hippies who smell like patchouli, but Gandhi said non-violence works because it doesn't create a violent reaction. By taking the blows, you are showing that you won't give up on your oppressor. It believes in his humanity. It's all applicable to our current situation.

Q: It doesn't always win elections, though.

A: I'm asking people to take a major shift, as Paul Wellstone showed us, you have to stick to your values.

Q: He also had plenty of kitchen-table issues.

A: So do I. Wal-Mart destroys mom and pop stores. Health-care needs to be universal. Who will speak for the masses?

Q: But the political graveyard is filled with the corpses of candidates who claimed to "speak for the masses."

A: Go to hicksforgovernor.com. It's all there.

Parks: We only killed trees to save the lives of humans

By Gersh Kuntzman

The Brooklyn Papers

They cut down the forest to save some knees.

Parks Department officials fought back this week in the wake of last week's "Arboricide!" scandal, saying that city workers cut down five trees on Henry Street only after determining that they were an imminent threat to pedestrians.

The scandal broke after the owners of 75 Henry St., where the five trees were cut down last month, went

public with a claim that the Parks Department removed perfectly healthy street trees that had been slightly damaged during renovation of the building's plaza.

The felled trees were alive, Parks officials have admitted, but they were not healthy.

"These trees suffered drastic and catastrophic root injury," said Parks Department First Deputy Commissioner Liam Kavanaugh. To bolster his claim, Kavanaugh released shocking photos to The Brooklyn Papers that show the five trees leaning perilously.

"Our forester said these trees were in danger of falling, which could injure pedestrians," Kavanaugh said. "We are in the business of saving trees, not cutting them down, but public safety must come first."

The construction company, York Restoration, was not only hit with \$5,000 in sum-

monses for damaging the three ginkgos and two London planes, but will be charged \$1,000 for the removal of the trees and must pay hundreds more to plant new trees.

George York, who owns York Restoration, held his ground when told of the Parks Department's damage control.

"There was nothing wrong with those trees," York said. "I hired an arborist, who said so, but the Parks people wouldn't listen. This is all a big bamboozle."

But Kavanaugh fired back, slamming York's arborist. Don Venezia, for saying that the trees had suffered virtually no damage and could be shored up merely with intense fertilization.

"We don't know how a certified arborist could have missed root damage this extensive," Kavanaugh said.

"This damage went through the entire root zone. Anchoring roots, nutritional roots, all severed." (Venezia did not re-

turn a call.) York, who is appealing the summonses, said he would rip up the just-paved sidewalk and confirm that the trees were fine by hiring a "forensic arborist."

"There must be such a thing, right?" he said.

Regardless, the building's management vowed to fight on.

"We're sticking with what we said: The trees were alive and healthy," said David Grillo, manager of the building. "This is not the end of this story."



A Parks Department photo shows one of five trees that officials say were a danger to humans because of massive root damage.

BROOKLYN BRIEFS



Marty's sign absconded with

The Brooklyn Papers

Fugheddaboudit "Fugheddaboudit"

One of Borough President Markowitz's beloved "Leaving Brooklyn: Fugheddaboudit" road signs — installed along the Belt Parkway to razz drivers as they head out of Brooklyn into the wasteland beyond — has been stolen.

Markowitz said the theft occurred in October, but his office hushed it up to discourage the "copy-cat" theft of one of the two remaining "Fugheddaboudit" signs — one haunting drivers who exit for the Verrazano Bridge and another pitying Queens-bound motorists on the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway.

"Obviously, we've ordered a new sign and it will be up in a couple of weeks," the irrepressible Beep told The Brooklyn Papers. "It will be more secure and harder to liberate."

Markowitz called on all Brooklynites to scour eBay and other Web sites in hopes of catching the thief if he tries to resell the sign.

"Of course, if he starts feeling guilty and wants to return it to Borough Hall, he can drop it off — no questions asked," Markowitz said.

Not only will the pinched placard be replaced, but Markowitz announced that a new "Welcome to Brooklyn" sign will be installed along the Jackie Robinson Parkway. Starting in a few weeks, drivers entering Brooklyn from Queens will be greeted with "Brooklyn is in da house!"

— Gersh Kuntzman



Stars come out for Marty's party

The Brooklyn Papers

The stars of Brooklyn — and beyond — came out for Borough President Markowitz's coronation ceremony last week at Brooklyn Tech HS in Fort Greene.

Thousands of well-wishers — and seasoned buffet elbow-throwers — cheered Markowitz as he took the oath of office from Mayor Bloomberg (although Markowitz promised to uphold the laws of "the city of Brooklyn" rather than the "city of New York," but Bloomberg let him have his day).

Junior Sen. Hillary Clinton was on hand, as was developer Bruce Ratner, whose Atlantic Yards project has enjoyed Markowitz's support from its earliest days. "He was invited and very happy to attend," Ratner's spokesman, Joe DePlasco, told The Brooklyn Papers. "He had a very nice time."

Hundreds of other Brooklynites shared that sentiment, thanks to an open bar (which, in deference to Markowitz's well-known battle of the bulge, dispensed a low-carb white wine in addition to other intoxicants) and ample buffet offerings.

"Man, this place looks like the White House during Andrew Jackson's inauguration!" said one guest, watching members of the multi-racial, multi-girth crowd push their way to the food before even taking off their coats.

In his speech, Markowitz praised virtually everyone who made even a passing contribution to Brooklyn life, from that guy who drank in 1,000 bars last year to Hollywood star — and Boerum Hill head-turner — Heath Ledger.

He vowed to fight for better health-care for Brooklynites, jobs and better schools, but mostly he promised to use his second and final term to be what he has always been: a cheerleader for the borough.

"Brooklyn is where it's at, baby!" he said. — Kuntzman

The fighting Irish at Beep's party



The sisters Hagan at Borough President's Markowitz's inauguration last week.

The Brooklyn Papers

Call it Sister Act, Brooklyn-style.

Prospect Heights's own Hagan sisters gave another show-stopping performance this week, when they raised on Borough President Markowitz's inaugural parade with a few feisty jeers.

Patti and Schelli Hagan have crashed the Borough President's annual ball each year since 2004, when the Beep came out as chief cheerleader for the borough's largest and most-controversial development, Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards arena and skyscraper project.

This time, the sisters interrupted a video montage starring Net star Vince Carter and the Beep in a team jersey by chanting "What about eminent domain?" and "What about Prospect Heights?"

Security guards tried to escort the duo out after a woman seated nearby whirled around to face them and began shouting "shut up."

Eventually, the guards gave up and left the strong-willed sisters to watch their fellow Brooklynites perform.

"We're Irish," said Hagan. "We weren't going to leave before the step-dancers." — Ariella Cohen

Words to live by

The Brooklyn Papers

At his inauguration last week, Borough President Markowitz handed out booklets containing thousands of suggestions for a new Brooklyn slogan that have been received by his office. Our personal favorite — "Brooklyn: I've got this pain in my back and my rheumatologist says it's nothing. Nothing? I'm dyin' here!" — didn't even make it to Marty's book. But thousands of others did, including some good ones ("Brooklyn is like an everything bagel," "Brooklyn: Nothing meshuga about it," and "Brooklyn: We ain't suckers"). But hundreds of others should never have even made it to print, as the Brooklyn Papers points out in this handy chart of lousy Kings County slogans.

SLOGAN	WHY IT'S BAD
"Brooklyn: Beating the odds"	Of course we beat the odds. We make them, don't we?
"Brooklyn: In your face"	We suppose it beats, "Newark: In your nose."
"Brooklyn: Come get it!"	Just make sure you pay for it on your way out.
"Brooklyn has everything you'd like"	...except ample street parking
"Brooklyn is a winner hands down"	Please keep those hands where we can see them.
"Brooklyn is much loved"	Hourly rates available
"Brooklyn: Let's do it!"	Hourly rates available
"Brooklyn: Tell a friend"	What are we, shampoo?
"Brooklyn: You'll be back!"	Isn't that what jilted spouses scream out the window?
"Brooklyn: From soup to nuts"	We'll have the matzoh ball, but we'll skip that weirdo on the subway.
"Brooklyn: A great place to live, an even harder place to forget"	Probably because of the dog poop on your sneaker
"Brooklyn is on fire!"	No, that was the 1970s.
"Brooklyn: More bang for the buck"	No, only when the hookers are running a special.
"Come see how we've developed"	Hate to break it to you: they're implants.
"I feel all Brooklynized"	Too bad your HMO won't cover it.
"Let your Brooklyn out"	We tried that on the subway and got arrested.
"Love thy neighbor — in Brooklyn"	We tried that but got divorced
"Nothing rhymes with Brooklyn like love"	Actually, better rhymes for Brooklyn are "decayed skin," "bathtub gin" and "original sin."
"The welcome mat's out... So wipe your feet, you're in Brooklyn"	And while you're at it, spit coffee on our couch, urinate on the carpet and throw eggs at our front window.
"When you're here, you're family"	No, that's the Olive Garden.

Coney horses all secure



Workers move a wooden horse from the B & B Carousel into a truck for its ride to an "undisclosed" location.

The Brooklyn Papers

Coney Island's last wooden ponies woke up Saturday far from the rusting roundabout that had always been home.

For the first time since the famous Bishoff and Brienstein Carousel moved to Surf Avenue in 1932, its hand-carved horses were taken away from their 45-foot track. But city officials say they'll be in a new home before they even miss the smell of stale Crackerjacks and the sound of screaming children.

The McCullough family sold the ride last summer, intending for it to be bought, piece-by-piece, by collectors. Instead, the city paid \$1.8 million for it, hoping to re-install it on the Boardwalk.

The ponies were removed from the Carousel last week and taken to a "secure" location until their new home is ready.

Of the 25 merry-go-rounds that once made Coney Island America's premiere amusement spot, the B&B is the only one to come out of the 20th century alive.

In lead horse, outfitted in full body armor embossed with a portrait of Abraham Lincoln, was carved by famed Brooklyn artist, Marcus Charles Illions. — Ariella Cohen

DDDB back online at libraries

The Brooklyn Papers

The company that filters Web sites for Manhattan public libraries has decided that Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn isn't smut after all.

Tech-security company Webense stopped classifying the DDB Web site as "adult content" this week, allowing library users to view the Prospect Heights activist organization's blog.

The reclassification came after computer users at the Mid-Manhattan branch of the New York Public Library complained that they could not access the angry, but not lewd, site.

"We had classified the site as 'adult content' because it was sharing an IP address with a Web site that offers adult content," a spokesperson for Webense told The Brooklyn Papers.

According to the public library, the block-out was nothing more than a glitch.

"And if [its site] is blocked, you can always self-censor to visit the site...I mean, if you are an adult," said a cautious library spokesman Gayle Shible.

Federal rules require public libraries to use Internet filters on institutional computers. — Cohen

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